

# THE OBSERVER

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## Mendoza rejects 'gates,' external transfers

By KAREN LANGLEY  
Assistant News Editor

As increasing numbers of students have decided to major in business during the past several years, the Mendoza College of Business has chosen to address rising interest by keeping Notre Dame students as its priority. While any Notre Dame student in good standing can choose to pursue a major in business — or any other academic areas — at any time, the College of Business is no longer accepting transfers from other universities.

Notre Dame students have

always been able to transfer freely between the colleges, and that is not about to change. But during the past five years, the college has been cutting back on admitting transfer students from outside the University — and in the fall of 2005, the college admitted zero external transfers.

Dean Carolyn Woo of the College of Business stressed the cumulative effects of accepting

external transfer students — a step that greatly increases an already large student population.

"We're not obligated to take external transfers," she said. "We should serve Notre Dame students before external students."

"It's like carrying a 350-pound body on knees designed for 200 pounds. The wear and tear is eventually seen."

The College of Business should definitely not grow larger, Woo said. At one point, the College graduated 30 percent of University students, though peer universities typically have 8 to 12 percent of their under-

graduates enrolled in business, she said.

"There are so many majors in the University," she said. "There is no reason all [the students] should be in business."

In the fall of 2005 there were 1,543 sophomores, juniors and seniors enrolled in business, down from 1,806 in the fall of 2001.

Two years ago, then-University Provost Nathan Hatch met with Woo to discuss the possibility of enacting gates to admission in the College, requiring a rising sophomore to have a 3.0 GPA to enter, said

see BUSINESS/page 3



Woo

## Graduate keeps ties with SMC

*Alumna returns to campus, shares book*

By MEGAN O'NEIL  
Saint Mary's Editor

On May 17, 2003, New York Times bestselling author and Saint Mary's alumna Adriana Trigiani delivered a hilarious commencement address at the College. Titled "Guts, Blind Faith, and Sun Block," it had graduates and their families rolling on the LeMans Hall Green.

"As of eight o'clock tomorrow morning [your parents] would like you to leave them alone ... Your mothers have asked me to tell you that their homes are not storage bins. Please, when you move on, take your junk with you," Trigiani joked.

The scene exemplified the warm relationship Trigiani has maintained with her alma mater since graduating in 1981 and moving on to a distinguished writing career.

"Adri has just been very, very generous [with Saint Mary's students] and I think she is with her readers too," English department chair Max Westler said.

After relocating from South Bend to New York City, Trigiani founded an all-female comedy troupe "The Outcasts" and later worked as a writer and producer for television shows such as "The Cosby Show," "A Different World" and "City Kids." Her 1996 doc-

see TRIGIANI/page 4

## Dorms interview RA candidates

*Current resident assistants, rectors talk to applicants about issues, faith, ambitions*

By KAITLYNN RIELY  
News Writer

When Paul Hagan was applying to be a resident assistant (RA) in Zahm Hall last year, he knew part of his job would be encouraging — or discouraging — the dorm's notorious traditions.

Now, Hagan is interviewing prospective Zahm RAs, and the issue of upholding Zahm's identity is a question he and the other RAs are posing to the applicants.

"We ask questions about how they feel about our dorm culture, because obviously Zahm has a very unique or outspoken culture, so [we talk about] how they would want to change it or nurture it," Hagan said.

see SELECTION/page 6



Fisher rector Father Rob Moss, right, talks with junior Ryan Bravo this week. Rectors and current RAs have recently been interviewing RA candidates for next year's positions.

PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

## Stretch of Douglas Road to close

By KATIE PERRY  
Assistant News Editor

With plans set and a vision established, the University is ready to continue its quest for development with the campus roads project — a procedure that will force the closure of some heavily trafficked routes on and around campus next week.

A portion of Douglas Road between Juniper and Ivy roads will be closed from Monday until early May, University spokesman Dennis Brown said in a statement Wednesday.

Part of Bulla Road, east of campus, and part of Ivy Road, north of Vaness Street, will also be closed to motorists

see DOUGLAS/page 6



Landscaping machinery sits by Douglas Road Thursday, awaiting the start of construction on traffic routes Monday.

PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

## Slow Webmail access investigated by OIT

By MAUREEN MULLEN  
News Writer

While rushing is a way of life at Notre Dame, slower-than-usual Webmail service is frustrating students, faculty and administrators who rely daily on the Notre Dame e-mail system.

The slowed performance arose during the past two to three weeks, said Paul Russell, Senior Systems Administrator for the Office of Information Technologies Messaging Services team. Russell said OIT is working to address the situation.

"We are paying attention to the issue," Russell said. "We are painfully aware of the

problem."

OIT has discussed and implemented both short- and long-term solutions, Russell said. There are a number of factors that affect server performance, and OIT is investigating the best way to proceed in addressing complaints, he said.

Russell said the Webmail problem is a complex issue that doesn't have a simple or straightforward solution. Though Webmail problems have been the most prevalent, Russell said that all e-mail users have been affected by slower speeds, including those using Outlook Express and Eudora Mail. The difficul-

see E-MAIL/page 8

INSIDE COLUMN

# Miracle workers

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger wasn't exaggerating when he called it the daily miracle.

The legendary New York Times publisher wasn't talking about college newspapers, of course. But his famous remark sums up perfectly how The Observer manages to appear on the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's campuses five days a week.

Beats me.

Even after leading the newspaper for a year, I still don't understand how we did this 140 times, or why nearly 200 students sacrifice chunks of their GPAs, sleep and social lives for the sake of creating a campus newspaper.



Claire Heininger  
Editor in Chief

Me, I can't really pinpoint one moment when or one reason why I decided The Observer would dominate my Notre Dame life — that I'd blow off classes for reporting assignments, instinctively dissect dinner conversations for story ideas, spend more St. Patrick's Days typing in the basement of South Dining Hall than chugging on a College Park balcony. Somewhere between Return to Glory and Monk Moves On, between saying no to the London Program and yes to the Editorial Board, I fell in love with journalism, added the news to my extensive list of addictions and resolved to make The Observer shine.

Of course, some just called it selling my soul. And they have a point — I'm not so naïve as to think everyone commits to this newspaper to the same extremes or does it for the same reasons. There are those who do it for the notoriety (Alec and Erik), for the money (Nick and Sam), or because of their boss's various bribes and guilt-trips (you know who you are). There are those who, frankly, I expect to stop showing up any day now. And then there are those — Pat, Heather, Mo, Sarah, Mike, Maddie and all the rest — who long ago decided, to my immense gratitude, that The Observer was where they'd make their Notre Dame identity.

At the end of my term, I'm realizing that our individual motivations matter less than the one reason we all have in common — even if we don't all admit it — that isn't exactly concrete.

It's trudging into DeBartolo or the dining hall on two hours of sleep and watching students hungrily grabbing newspapers from the stacks. It's surveying the restless audiences waiting for Father Jenkins' inaugural address or academic freedom speeches and catching administrators, faculty and students alike poring over each page. It's braving the swarming Bookstore on football Fridays just for the satisfaction of seeing alumni fight for copies of the newspaper you slaved over until 5:30 a.m. the night before. It's holding each issue knowing you've contributed to 40 years of student sweat, integrity and fearlessness.

So yes, intangible is an understatement. But after an unforgettable year of proudly witnessing the talent, passion and dedication this staff pours into The Observer, I know I'll never consider "daily miracle" overstating the case.

Contact Claire Heininger at [cheining@nd.edu](mailto:cheining@nd.edu)  
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

## QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW HAS THE CONSTRUCTION ON DOUGLAS ROAD AFFECTED YOU?



Joey Brown  
freshman  
Fisher

"It is imposing on my Catholic values."



Bronwyn Fullard  
sophomore  
Pasquerilla East

"It's really frustrating when I drive to work."



Patrick Essien  
senior  
St. Ed's

"Not really, too much responsibility."



Molly Phister  
sophomore  
Le Mans

"I don't have a car. So, no."



Maggie Jespersen  
sophomore  
Le Mans

"It made it difficult to get to my student observing."



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Law student Matt Perez-Staple registers for Howard Hall's sixth annual bone marrow drive Thursday. Perez-Staple's name will be entered in a computerized registry maintained by the National Marrow Donor Program.

## OFFBEAT

And a little-bitty thimble of popcorn, please.

OTTAWA — Budding Canadian film makers looking for a big break may want to think small — about 2 inches by 2 inches to be exact — organizers of Canada's first mobile film festival said Wednesday.

Mobifest producers are looking for bite-sized films that are up to 60 seconds long and produced for viewing on cellphones and other handheld devices.

"The big picture is that there's a billion (mobile) phones worldwide and an

increasing percentage of them are playing back video," said Duncan Kennedy, president of Nownow Corp., which is producing the contest. "It's a new distribution channel for independent film making."

Boy sticks gum on valuable painting

DETROIT — Painter Helen Frankenthaler's landmark abstract work "The Bay" just got a little more abstract — to the dismay of Detroit museum officials.

A 12-year-old boy visiting the Detroit Institute of Arts

with his school group on Friday stuck a wad of chewing gum on the painting, which is worth an estimated \$1.5 million, the Detroit Free Press said.

The barely chewed Wrigley's Extra Polar Ice gum left a residue stain about the size of a quarter in the lower left-hand corner of the painting, the newspaper said.

The boy was suspended from Holly Academy, a Detroit-area charter school he attends, the newspaper reported.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

## IN BRIEF

Saint Mary's senior Ashley Peltier will present her senior comprehensive play "Angel: A Nightmare in Two Acts" today at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theater in Moreau Hall. The play is free and open to the public.

The Irish men's basketball team will bid farewell to seniors Saturday, when the team squares off with DePaul in its final home game of the 2005-2006 season. Tip-off is at 4 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

The 2nd annual Holy Cross Mission Lecture, "The Word of God is not Chained: Images for Mission in Cultures," will be presented Sunday at 7:15 p.m. in the Moreau Seminary Auditorium.

John Carr, Director of the Department of Social Development & World Peace, will speak on "Political Responsibility and Religion: Faithful Citizenship in the 2006 Elections" on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Eck Visitors Center Auditorium

The Jazz Clinic with the Clayton Brothers will perform Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Notre Dame Band Building. The event is part of the Collegiate Jazz Festival and is free and open to the public.

A conference titled "Reading Between the Lines: Scripture and Community in the Dead Sea Scrolls" will take place at 10:30 a.m. Monday in McKenna Hall auditorium.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to [obsnews@nd.edu](mailto:obsnews@nd.edu)

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	37	30	27	18	37	28	40	25	33	22	43	30

Atlanta 62 / 45 Boston 36 / 24 Chicago 36 / 23 Denver 62 / 31 Houston 68 / 59 Los Angeles 65 / 47 Minneapolis 31 / 24 New York 34 / 29 Philadelphia 45 / 27 Phoenix 80 / 59 Seattle 47 / 38 St. Louis 50 / 30 Tampa 77 / 35 Washington 47 / 29

## Business

continued from page 1

Assistant Provost for Admissions Dan Saracino.

"That goes against the culture at Notre Dame," Saracino said.

For now at least, it was decided that gates both can and should be avoided.

Woo echoed Saracino's analysis, adding that this stance made Notre Dame unique.

"Almost all schools I know have gates to the business program," she said. "If [Notre Dame] accepts students, they should have access to any major they want."

Assistant Dean of the College of Business Samuel Gaglio agreed with Woo's sentiments, saying there are "no ongoing discussions" as gates are "not appropriate for Notre Dame."

"If you're here at Notre Dame, the option to study business is yours," Gaglio said.

Even if the University were

willing to install gates, there would be no practical way to screen applicants for their majors without changing the structure of the First Year of Studies program — a well-established system that allows freshmen to explore various academic options.

"There are many subjects at Notre Dame that [incoming] students aren't familiar with — like engineering and business," Saracino said.

Applicants do notify the Office of Undergraduate Admissions of what they plan to major in, Saracino said, but 15-20 percent of students change their major between when they apply and when they register for class the summer before freshman year. More than two of every three undergraduates at Notre Dame change their major between application and graduation, with many changing two or three times, he said.

This is as true for business majors as for students in the other colleges, Gaglio said.

"We have a lot of students move into and out of the College," he said.

The statement of intended major serves therefore as an aid to departments that might send information to incoming students, but plays no role in applicants' chances of acceptance, Saracino said.

"An undergraduate education doesn't teach you to be something, but to be someone," Saracino said.

Saracino said career-oriented students who would like to explore other academic areas before pursuing a business career may still gain some business knowledge with extra spaces in their schedules.

"Students can [take business classes] as electives," Saracino said. "There are other ways

than actually majoring in business."

While the College will always try to fill any openings in courses, Gaglio said students from other colleges

may not always be able to take business electives, due to the already-maximized enrollment by business majors.

"We have to give priority to business students, as the courses are necessary to their degrees," he said.

"Any seats we have are available, but that is a limited number."

Class sizes cannot be increased, he said.

"There is a pedagogical limit to the size of any class on campus," he said. "It hurts the quality of the class if you go beyond that. We've put all our limits at that number."

*"If [Notre Dame] accepts students, they should have access to any major they want."*

**Dean Carolyn Woo  
Mendoza College of  
Business**

Gaglio said high enrollment in any courses stems from student interest in the material.

"Students should study what they love," he said, quoting psychology specialist Anne Venter. "The courses we offer appeal to students."

For those students to whom business appeals, there are many pluses to pursuing a business major at Notre Dame, Woo said.

"Business training is very broadly applicable," she said. "All organizations, in order to be effective, require a certain organizational intelligence."

And Notre Dame students will continue to have the option to choose Business, just as they may study Arts & Letters, Science, Engineering or Architecture, without admissions gates.

"We couldn't be more convinced that what we have is the best system," Saracino said.

Contact Karen Langley at [klangle1@nd.edu](mailto:klangle1@nd.edu)



**Eurydice caught decorating  
Aristaeus' cottage!**

**INSIDE:**

**Orpheus' "Instrument" drives  
Eurydice to distraction!**

**PLUS:**

**The surprise in  
the shepherd's  
cornfield**

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# Trigiani

continued from page 1

umentary "Queens of the Big Time" won the Audience Award at the Hamptons Film Festival and toured internationally.

It was a screenplay called "Big Stone Gap," however, that gave rise to Trigiani's career as a well known novelist and made her a dorm room name at Saint Mary's. In 2000 she published her first book, "Big Stone Gap," about a 30-something-year-old woman of Italian descent living in a Virginia mining town. Two more books based on the same character, "Big Cherry Holler" and "Milk Glass Moon," followed, rounding out what is now known as the Big Stone Gap Trilogy. Her three most recent titles, "Lucia, Lucia," "The Queen of the Big Time" and "Rococo" all made the New York Times bestsellers list and have been popular selections for book clubs across the country.

"It's a big deal when you make the New York Times list because authors know it's an impossible list to crack ... It was very sweet the first time and since then, sweeter still," Trigiani said.

After receiving it as a gift, junior Allison Beyer read "Big Stone Gap" unaware its author was a Saint Mary's graduate. She enjoyed the book so much she went on to read "Big Cherry Holler" and "The Queen of the Big Time" — her favorite of the three.

"I just really liked the character development in ["The Queen of the Big Time"] and how [Trigiani] describes the relationships between the sisters," Beyer said.

It made her excited and proud when she finally learned Trigiani was an alumna, Beyer said.

Trigiani's novels are not confined to the private bookshelves of Saint Mary's students, however, they are being utilized in literature classes at the College.

English professor Laura Haigwood included a work by the writer on one of her course's syllabus for the third time this semester. Students are often able to relate to Trigiani's Catholic, European-descendent characters, Haigwood said, and her books lend themselves to thoughtful discussion of women's issues.

"I was surprised by how very much they enjoyed reading her," Haigwood said. "Some people would say it was

their favorite book [of the course]."

In addition to using her work to teach literary analysis, Haigwood said, she holds Trigiani up as an example for current students.

"I always mention that she is an alumna because I think it is important for our students to know what our graduates are doing," Haigwood said.

Senior Clare Hoyt knew the name Trigiani before she enrolled at Saint Mary's. Her mother was a classmate and friend of the author. She read several of Trigiani's novels, one as part of class, and said she enjoys her writing style.

"I think it is very good for the school," Hoyt said. "It just shows that people that go here can be very successful and it is a really good selling point."

Trigiani's books are a favorite at the Saint Mary's bookstore, said bookkeeper Bob DeZenzo, with "Big Stone Gap" at the top of the list. Sales are particularly strong during alumnae weekends, DeZenzo said.

"I do a lot of touring and I meet a Saint Mary's girl, or three or 10, at every stop," Trigiani said. "The Saint Mary's-Notre Dame community of [graduates has] been very kind to me, as well as their children."

Prior to Saint Mary's alumna Mary Campe's 2003 graduation, she was not familiar with Trigiani's novels.

The novelist's speech was so powerful, Campe said, that her grandmother ordered a copy of the graduation video.

"It touched everybody in the audience," she said. "She did such a good job of [connecting to] not only the students, but with parents, grandparents and siblings."

Campe promptly went out and purchased a copy of Trigiani's "Big Stone Gap" and said she understands why the writer has been so successful.

Professors who taught Trigiani remember her as flamboyant and fun. Sister Jean Klene, who was mentioned by name in the 2003 commencement speech, said as a student Trigiani would wear bold flower print dresses and decorate her papers with drawings. When she spotted her across campus or in the dining hall, Klene said, she would attract attention by hol-

lering "My nun, my nun."

"[As a student] I was an unsophisticated, high-energy ball of undirected fire, and luckily my professors took the talent underneath all that very seriously and gave me incredible opportunities," Trigiani said.

Saint Mary's affection for Trigiani is matched equally by her love for the College. In addition to her 2003 visit, she has returned to campus several times for book signings, DeZenzo said, and she is tentatively scheduled to attend alumnae weekend in June.

Further, the College is mentioned explicitly in Trigiani's work. In "Milk Glass Moon," the main character, Ave Maria, insists her daughter — set on attending architecture school at the University of Virginia — at least visit Saint Mary's before making her final decision.

*"I was an unsophisticated, high-energy ball of undirected fire and luckily my professors took the talent underneath all that very seriously."*

Adriana Trigiani  
Saint Mary's graduate

main character, Ave Maria, insists her daughter — set on attending architecture school at the University of Virginia — at least visit Saint Mary's before making her final decision.

"I am very grateful to hear that my books are being read at my beloved College," Trigiani said. "I am at the beginning of what I hope will be a long career in books so when I hear that my books are being used in the classroom, I want to holler, 'No, wait, I'm getting better at this — promise!'"

The writer has even gone so far as to employ recent Saint Mary's graduates. Allison Roche, a 2005 alumna, currently works as Trigiani's personal assistant in Manhattan.

"I love to hire Saint Mary's women, and Notre Dame for that matter, because I know how well-trained and [well-read] graduates of these schools are — and you take work seriously, which is a must if you are going to work with me," Trigiani said.

Trigiani lives in Greenwich

Village with her husband, Tim Stephenson — an Emmy award winning lighting director for The Late Show — and three-year-old daughter, Lucia.

"Being a mother sobered me up," she said. "I never worried about anything — really, I'm one of those people who is not afraid of anything."

*"When I think about Adri, I think as bad as some things are in the world, there are people like her trying to turn it around."*

Max Westler  
English department chair

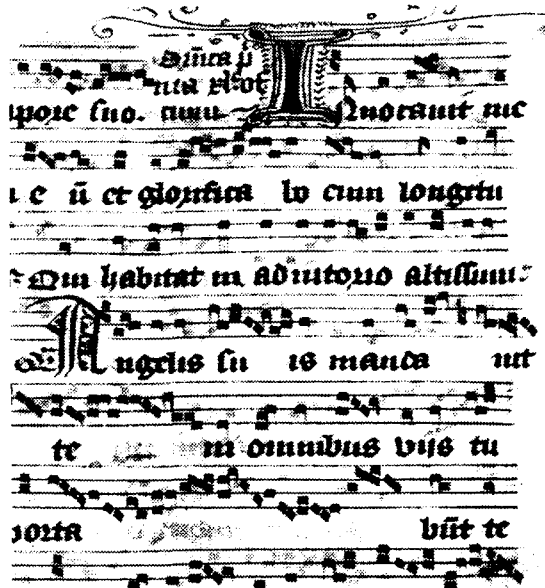
Westler, who described his former student as "the funniest women on the planet," said any Saint Mary's woman who contacts Trigiani can expect a timely response. He has no shame in dropping her name in class and said the College has a dependable friend in New York.

"When I think about Adri, I think as bad as some things are in the world, there are people like her trying to turn it around," Westler said.

Contact Megan O'Neil at  
onei0907@saintmarys.edu

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# WORLD & NATION

Friday, March 3, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Gunmen attack top Sunni politician

BAGHDAD — Gunmen attacked the disabled car of Iraq's top Sunni politician Thursday, killing one bodyguard and wounding five after the Sunni leader sped away in another vehicle. Thirty-eight other people died in a new round of violence.

After the attack, Adnan al-Dulaimi, leader of the largest Sunni parliamentary bloc, refused to assign blame and called for restraint to blunt the spiraling sectarian violence that has taken about 500 lives since Feb. 22, when a Shiite shrine was bombed in Samarra.

"I don't accuse anyone ... I consider it accidental, and I call on my brothers for self-restraint and to contain what happened because Iraq is bigger than Adnan and his guards," al-Dulaimi told The Associated Press.

### Suicide bombing kills U.S. diplomat

KARACHI — A suicide bomber who was blocked from driving into the U.S. Consulate slammed instead into an American diplomat's car Thursday, killing the envoy. The force of the blast on the eve of President Bush's trip to Pakistan blew the U.S. vehicle into the grounds of a hotel.

The attack killed three other people, wounded 52, and shattered windows in the consulate and on all 10 floors of the Marriott Hotel. Ten cars were destroyed, and charred wreckage was flung as far as 600 feet away in one of the most heavily guarded areas of the volatile southern city.

Bush, in neighboring India, quickly vowed to stick with his plan to fly to Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, on Friday.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Independent Katrina probe wanted

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers from both parties said Thursday a newly disclosed videotape of a pre-Katrina briefing for President Bush and top administration officials raises new questions about government response to the storm that flooded New Orleans and killed more than 1,300 people.

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said the video "makes it perfectly clear once again that this disaster was not out of the blue or unforeseeable. It was not only predictable, it was actually predicted. That's what made the failures in response — at the local, state and federal level — all the more outrageous."

The video, obtained by The Associated Press, "confirms what we have suspected all along," said Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, charging that Bush administration officials have "systematically misled the American people."

### Nurse sentenced to life in prison

SOMERVILLE — A nurse who killed at least 29 patients was sent to prison for the rest of his life Thursday after his victims' loved ones angrily branded him "vermin," "garbage" and a "monster" who ruined lives and shattered their faith in the medical profession.

Charles Cullen — one of the most prolific killers the U.S. health care industry has ever seen — escaped the death penalty after making a deal with prosecutors to tell them which patients he killed with hard-to-detect drug injections.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Smoking ban off to a clean start

INDIANAPOLIS — Shiny red ashtrays dotted a handful of new wrought-iron tables on the sidewalk Wednesday outside Palomino restaurant in Downtown Indianapolis, proof that a smoking ban had arrived.

The first day under the new rules in Marion County and Greenfield seemed to go smoothly as businesses, workers and patrons adjusted to limits on smoking in public places. The Marion County Health Department reported few complaints of people running afoul of the ban.

## INDIA

# Nuclear deal made with India

Officials say Bush's next stop in Pakistan carries risk of terrorist activity

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — White House officials celebrated a landmark nuclear deal with India but looked ahead with some anxiety to President Bush's next stop in Pakistan, a dangerous front line in the war on terror.

The president flies to Islamabad late Friday, a day after an American diplomat was killed in a suicide bombing in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. There was evidence the diplomat was targeted, U.S. officials said.

"Terrorists and killers are not going to prevent me from going to Pakistan," Bush said Thursday at a news conference with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Bush said it was important to take a stand with Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the military leader who took power in Pakistan in a 1999 coup.

"After all," Bush said, "he has had a direct stake in this fight — four times the terrorists have tried to kill him."

Stephen Hadley, the president's national security adviser, said security risks and precautions had been assessed before Bush's decision to go to Pakistan.

"It is something that they reassess up to the point where we head to Pakistan," Hadley said. "And at this point people are comfortable that the necessary precautions are in place. But this is not a risk-free undertaking."

The slain U.S. diplomat was identified as David Foy, a foreign service officer.

The centerpiece of Bush's visit to India was the agreement to share nuclear reactors, fuel and expertise with this energy-starved nation in



President George Bush and First Lady Laura Bush stand for the United States national anthem during their visit to India Thursday.

return for its acceptance of international safeguards.

The accord, which reverses decades of U.S. policy, would end India's long isolation as a nuclear maverick that defied the world and developed nuclear weapons. India agreed to separate its tightly entwined nuclear industry — declaring 14 reactors as commercial facilities and eight as military — and to open the civilian side to international inspections for the first time.

The agreement must be approved by Congress, and Bush acknowledged

that might be difficult because India still refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"I'm trying to think differently, not stay stuck in the past," said Bush, who has made improving relations with India a goal of his administration. Celebrating their agreement, Singh said, "We have made history today, and I thank you."

The U.S.-India nuclear deal was seen as the centerpiece of better relations between the world's oldest and most powerful democracy and the world's largest and fastest-growing one.

Bush acknowledged that Washington and New Delhi were estranged during the Cold War, when India declared itself a nonaligned nation but tilted toward Moscow. "Now the relationship is changing dramatically," he said.

India has more than 1 billion people, and its booming economy has created millions of jobs and consumer demands that have attracted American businesses. Its middle class has swelled to 300 million — more than the population of the United States. Still, 80 percent of Indians live on less than \$2 a day.

# Senate chooses to renew Patriot Act

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday gave its blessing to the renewal of the USA Patriot Act after adding new privacy protections designed to strike a better balance between civil liberties and the government's power to root out terrorists.

The 89-10 vote marked a bright spot in President Bush's troubled second term as his approval ratings dipped over the war in Iraq and his administration's response to Hurricane Katrina. Renewing the act, Bush and congressional

Republicans said, was key to preventing more terror attacks in the United States.

Bush applauded the Senate for overcoming "partisan attempts to block its passage." The House was expected to approve the two-bill package next week and send it to the president, who would sign it before 16 provisions expire March 10.

"This bill will allow our law enforcement officials to continue to use the same tools against terrorists that are already used against drug dealers and other criminals, while safeguarding the civil liberties of the American people," Bush said in a statement from India.

Critics held their ground. A December filibuster led by Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., and joined by several libertarian-leaning Republicans, forced the Bush administration to agree to modest new curbs on the government's power to probe library, bank and other records.

Feingold insisted those new protections are cosmetic.

"Americans want to defeat terrorism and they want the basic character of this country to survive and prosper," he said. "They want both security and liberty, and unless we give them both — and we can if we try — we have failed."

## Selection

continued from page 1

The RA selection process is either underway or completed in all 27 residence halls. Students interested in applying for the position submitted an application and three letters of recommendation to the Office of Student Affairs in mid-January. Though dorms differ slightly in how they conduct their selection process, the rectors, assistant rectors and current resident assistants usually hold a series of interviews, and then the rector makes the final decisions.

Anne-Marie Rick of Welsh Family was awarded an RA spot last week. She found the application process — which included three separate interviews in one hour — to be fairly easy.

"The interviews go over everything from how would you handle it if you were aware of one of the girls in your section being bulimic to what do you think is the biggest thing you're going to have to give up," Rick said.

In some dorms, competition for an RA spot, which includes free room and board, can be tough. Zahm Hall has 16 applicants this year for seven spots. Other dorms, like Morrissey Hall, have less intense competition. Matthew Schultheis is one of nine Morrissey juniors applying for eight spots. If he's offered an RA position, Schultheis wants to help Morrissey residents adjust to life in the dorm and at Notre Dame.

"I feel like I've had great role models in my life, particularly freshman year," Schultheis said. "I hope that I could make freshman year easier and more fulfilling for the freshmen as my RA did for me."

Alexis Phillips, an RA in Pasquerilla East Hall, has been helping to interview 18 applicants for six spots. The competition was stiff last year as well, Phillips said. Phillips says she has enjoyed spending her final year at Notre Dame as a leader in her dorm.

"I've learned a lot about myself ... how to deal with all kinds of situations, things that I never would have thought I'd have to deal with," Phillips said. "I think it's very rewarding. I would do it again."

While the hall staff considers each applicant's leadership skills and personalities individually, they also try to pick a group that will work well together.

"When you are picking seven people, you want different personalities that are going to

mesh well," Hagan said.

In his interviews, current Morrissey RA Dan Reynolds asked juniors questions about how they understand the dorm's character and what they can contribute to residence life. Reynolds also asked candidates about their faith lives.

"[Resident assistants should be] willing examples of conscientious faith, no matter what kind of faith it is," Reynolds said.

In the resident assistant description on its website, the Office of Student Affairs says RAs should possess Christian values evident in their lives and in their lifestyles.

Rectors will make their RA picks by today, and the Office of Student Affairs will inform all applicants of their status March 10.

Thinking back over the past year, Hagan said being a resident assistant is a great job to have on campus. In addition to lowering the expenses of attending

Notre Dame, the privilege of being respected by other residents and being a leader in the dorm makes the job one Hagan recommends.

"It helps you grow up and mature ... [and to] be in a leadership position as opposed to [being] the person the RAs are trying to control," Hagan said.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at [kriely@nd.edu](mailto:kriely@nd.edu)

## Douglas

continued from page 1

during this period.

The purpose of the closings is to allow construction to begin on a roundabout at the Douglas-Ivy intersection and is "necessary to widen Douglas Road," vice president for Business Operations Jim Lyphout said.

The road closures will also permit the completion of a new four-lane road — North Twyckenham Drive — east of Notre Dame campus.

Brown said once construction is completed in May, the extension of Twyckenham from Edison to Douglas, and on to Juniper, will likely improve the time it takes motorists to travel "in every direction near Notre Dame."

"This four-lane north-south corridor will be much faster than [the] current route through campus with stoplights," Lyphout told The

Observer in an article published Sept. 27, 2004. "It will be a better road and a faster road."

This spring's roadwork is part of a larger campus roads project, which Lyphout said is estimated to cost \$23.77 million. Primarily launched in response to safety concerns arising from a predicted increase in pedestrian traffic — due to construction on the northern area of campus — the project is also part of a master plan that restricts how far the campus will ultimately expand.

"We have a blue line that tells us how far we can spread outwards, because we don't want a sprawling, non-walkable campus," Lyphout told The Observer in the Sept. 27, 2004 article.

Lyphout said all new construction will rest within the blue line — a decision that necessitates the closure of Juniper Road once all alternative routes are in place.

The section of Juniper Road

that bisects campus will close in August, Brown said.

The University, local government officials and the general public negotiated for three years about the campus roads project until it was eventually approved by the Saint Joseph County Council on June 8, 2004.

Brown said one concession made by the University during this procedure was its agreement to build a new north-south roadway on the eastern edge of campus.

Brown said motorists who enter campus along its northern edge — from the east on Douglas — should use Cleveland Road to Juniper on the north and Edison Road to Eddy on the south for the duration of the road closing.

Additional closings will occur in May due to construction on another portion of Douglas and on Saint Joseph's Drive, Brown said.

Contact Katie Perry at [kperry5@nd.edu](mailto:kperry5@nd.edu)

## ND benefactors to be recognized

Special to The Observer

More than 250 University of Notre Dame benefactors from 28 states will be honored on campus Friday and Saturday (March 3 and 4) during the biennial Scholarship Fellowship Recognition Weekend.

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., Notre Dame's president, will welcome the guests at a reception Friday evening at which students

will have an opportunity to meet the men and women who have underwritten their educations.

"The big highlight of the recognition weekend for our guests is always the chance for them to get to know some of the students studying under their benefaction," said Louis Nanni, vice president for University relations. "I'm not sure who enjoys these meetings more, our students or our donors."

The weekend also will include a panel discussion, titled "Fulfilling the Promise: The Undergraduate Education Experience and Teaching, Research and Graduate Studies," featuring Thomas G. Burish, Notre Dame's provost, and Dennis Jacobs, vice president, associate provost and professor of chemistry and biochemistry, who was named the U.S. Professor of the Year in 2002.



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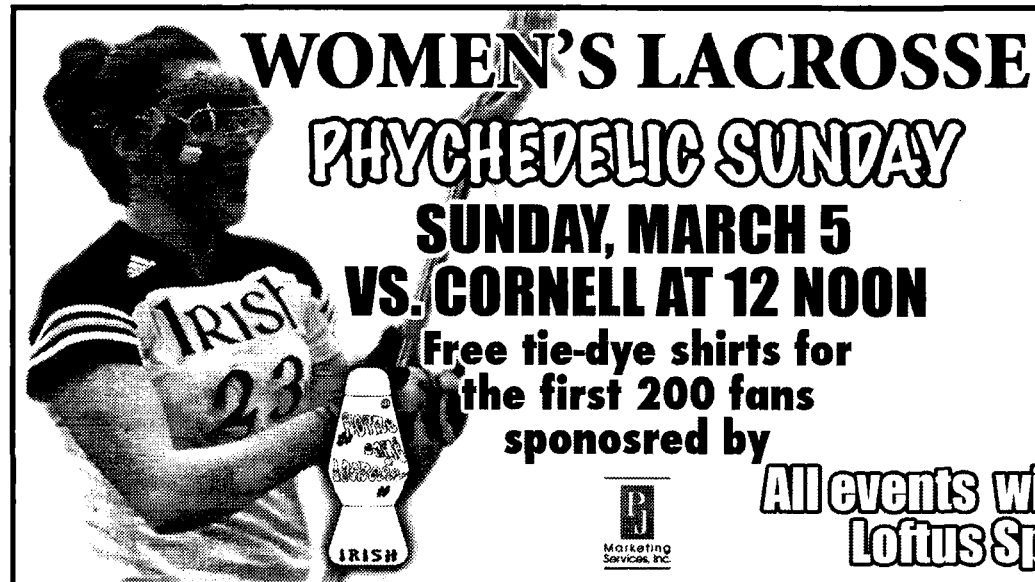
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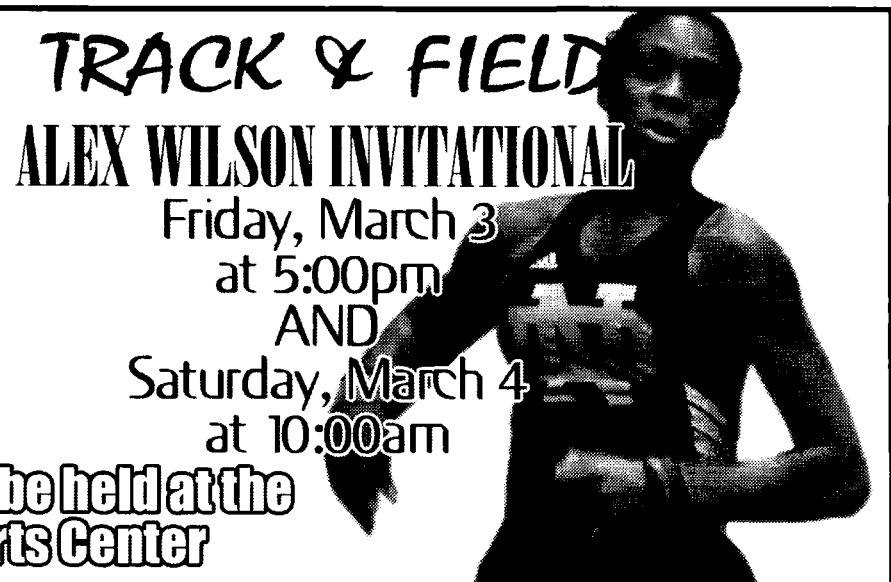
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**TRACK & FIELD**

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**at 5:00pm**

**AND**

**Saturday, March 4**

**at 10:00am**

**All events will be held at the Loftus Sports Center**

**MARKET RECAP**

**Stocks**  
**Dow Jones** 11,028.07 -25.46

Up: 1,393 Same: 176 Down: 1,832 Composite Volume: 2,154,639,640

**AMEX** 1,887.03 +8.73  
**NASDAQ** 2,311.11 -3.53  
**NYSE** 8,126.58 -4.05  
**S&P 500** 1,289.17 -2.07  
**NIKKEI(Tokyo)** 15,909.76 0.00  
**FTSE 100(London)** 5,833.00 -11.10

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
JDS UNIPHASE CP (JDSU)	+9.78	+0.31	3.48
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.54	-0.32	20.48
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	-0.12	-0.05	41.61
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-0.62	-0.13	20.93
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	-0.08	-0.01	12.80

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+1.07	+0.49	46.38
13-WEEK BILL	-0.44	0.00	44.87
30-YEAR BOND	+1.21	+0.55	46.16
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.84	+0.39	46.70

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.39	63.36	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+4.60	570.40	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.15	90.86	

Exchange Rates			
YEN		115.8300	
EURO		0.8305	
POUND		0.5701	
CANADIAN \$		1.1315	

**IN BRIEF**

**Bankruptcy may be in Dana's future**

**TOLEDO** — Dana Corp.'s inability to make \$21 million in interest payments this week prompted investors and analysts on Thursday to wonder whether the struggling auto parts maker is moving closer to seeking bankruptcy protection. The company's stock took another dive, falling 40 percent.

Standard & Poor's Ratings Service and Moody's Investors Service lowered their ratings on Dana.

"The negative outlook reflects the continuing uncertainty of Dana's ability to renegotiate its bank facilities, avoid a Chapter 11 filing, and stem the erosion in its operating performance," Moody's said in a statement.

Dana said it has a 30-day grace period to make the interest payments, which were due Wednesday. Failing to make that deadline would allow those who hold the debt to accelerate its maturity.

In 2000, Dana had more than 6,400 employees at 11 Indiana plants. Since then the company has downsized, selling factories and announcing plans to close and sell more, trimming its work force in the state to 2,000.

**National debt may increase with vote**

**WASHINGTON** — Republicans in the Senate face a difficult but necessary vote in coming weeks to allow the Treasury borrow to pad the \$8.2 trillion national debt by another \$781 billion.

The need to increase the legal limit on the debt has Democrats eager to use the debate to blast President Bush and his GOP allies in Congress for their fiscal stewardship.

"During this administration, America's debt, that is, the total of the deficits has increased by \$3 trillion," said Sen. Max Baucus of Montana, top Democrat on the Finance Committee. "That's a 40 percent increase in the entire federal debt accrued by our country in its entire history."

Treasury officials briefed Senate staff aides Thursday and told them that without an increase in the government's ability to borrow, it would default on obligations for the first time in history sometime during the week of March 20. That is an unthinkable prospect that would roil financial markets and damage the government's credit rating.

# Stocks lower on retail worries

*Disappointing sales prompt some new concerns about slowdown in economy*

Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Nervous investors bid stocks modestly lower Thursday as disappointing retail sales reports prompted fresh concerns about a slowdown in the economy and a dropoff in corporate revenues. A surge in oil prices also spurred selling.

While many big-name retailers reported solid, if uninspiring, sales for February, the majority of monthly retail sales were below Wall Street's expectations — a disturbing sign for investors who hope consumer spending will remain robust in the face of expected interest rate increases from the Federal Reserve.

"The economy is slowing, not to the point where anybody's really worried, but if corporate profits slow along with it, you're going to want to see the Fed finish up with rate hikes," said Russ Koesterich, senior portfolio manager at Barclays Global Investments in San Francisco. "But the Fed is going to err on the side of inflation. So the one catalyst that could move the markets out of this trading range doesn't seem to be there right now."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 28.02, or 0.25 percent, to 11,025.51.

Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 2.10, or 0.16 percent, to 1,289.14, and the Nasdaq composite index dropped 3.53, or 0.15 percent, to 2,311.11.

Bonds fell for a second straight session, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rising to 4.64 percent from 4.59 percent late Wednesday. The dollar lost ground against other major currencies, while gold prices rose.

Unrest in oil-producing regions as well as higher natural gas prices helped boost crude futures. A barrel of light crude settled at \$63.36, up \$1.39, on the New York Mercantile



**Store window mannequins wear spring fashions at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City Thursday as reports came in that the store's sales fell 6.4 percent in February.**

Exchange.

The retail worries overshadowed another sign of strength in the labor market. First-time jobless claims rose by 15,000 last week to 294,000, according to the Labor Department. The small increase kept claims below 300,000 for the seventh straight week.

The claims data, however, did not provide any additional clarity on the overall economy. The week's economic data, while plentiful, has been mixed, leaving investors with their uncertainties about economic growth and prompting what Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co., called a knee-jerk reaction

to each new bit of data.

"You look at the past three days, we're down, up and down again," said Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co. "Without any real catalyst, and really, without knowing what the Fed will do, we're going to bounce around here for a while."

The Fed meets March 28, and is likely to raise the nation's benchmark interest rate to 4.75 percent. Wall Street will be watching closely for signs whether the March rate hike will be the last in the recent string of increases, or whether the Fed sees more signs of inflation to combat.

Against a backdrop of

slowing consumer spending and falling retail sales, more rate hikes could further slow economic growth, which is why investors punished retail sector stocks. Among those reporting retail sales, discount merchants and department stores fared best.

Dow industrial Wal-Mart Stores Inc. narrowly beat Wall Street's expectations with a 3.2 percent increase in sales at stores open at least a year, while rival Target Corp. saw a 3.6 percent jump in same-store sales, also beating analysts' forecasts. Wal-Mart slipped 9 cents to \$45.06, while Target fell 86 cents to \$53.71.

# Threat keeps pilots in negotiation

Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The threat of mutually assured destruction kept Northwest Airlines and its pilots at the bargaining table on Thursday.

Though Northwest had the power to impose a cost-cutting contract of its choosing, the pilots' threat of a strike that could wreck the nation's fourth-largest airline made that unlikely.

Northwest spokesman Kurt Ebenhoch has declined to address the issue directly, but said the company intended to keep talking.

"We continue to negotiate, and we are making progress on reaching a consensus agreement with our pilots," he said.

The company wants \$358 million in

concessions from pilots, the union said last month. But the union and the company said last week that they had reached a framework for an agreement on who would fly small jets for Northwest, which had been at the heart of the pilot's strike threat. Pilots are also pressing for protection if Eagan, Minn.-based Northwest is sold or split up, and for a share in the company once it emerges from bankruptcy.

Industry watchers and the pilots union both said it was unlikely Northwest would impose its terms. But Daniel Petree, dean of the business college at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, said it wasn't out of the question.

"I don't think it's something they would do lightly," he said, but added, "I

doubt they've ruled it out."

The airline has said a strike could put it out of business for good. Pilots would lose even more than most workers if that happened, because their large pensions are cut the most if the government has to bail out Northwest's pension. And with the industry in layoff mode, getting a job at another carrier would be difficult.

"I've had pilots who've e-mailed me saying they're so fed up they're willing to fall on their swords," said Vaughn Cordle, chief analyst at AirlineForecasts, who also flies part-time for a different airline. "Now think about that for a second — is that a silly thing to say, to take it to the point that they're willing to shut down the airline out of principle?"



## E-mail

continued from page 1

ties seem to stem from mail servers interacting with other University servers, and changes made to one type of server affect the other, he said.

Russell said it is difficult to find and maintain a balance that keeps everything working properly.

"OIT is presently tuning existing servers to optimize their performance at the moment," he said.

Russell said that 10,000 to 12,000 people check their Notre Dame e-mail accounts at least once per day. Usage tends to peak during the late morning and mid-afternoon — and more users often means slower service, Russell said.

To adequately address the problems with slowed service, Russell believes the University will probably have to purchase and use more hardware for the service. However, since it is the middle of the semester, Russell said that other short-term changes would be more beneficial.

He mentioned temporarily reconfiguring a balance in the system. On Thursday, OIT tried switching Webmail's support to one server in the hopes of speeding up page-loading, but the change did not alleviate the

delays.

"We have been monitoring the service, and we hope that we'll be able to implement effective changes and alleviate the problem quickly," Russell said.

Several students said they were frustrated with the slowed e-mail.

"I have noticed the problem, and it's really annoying," freshman Amanda Gonzales said.

Though sophomore Alison Nowatarski was also concerned about Webmail's speed, she was relieved to know the issue was not unique to her computer.

"I definitely have experienced slow Webmail," she said. "I didn't realize it was a problem across campus. I thought my browser was just slow."

Classics professor Andrew Faulkner said he has noticed the Webmail problems during the last month.

"On the whole, I think the system runs well, but I was experiencing some delays in being able to take attachments off of the server," Faulkner said. "That said, I am not at all expert when it comes to computers, so I am most often unsure whether these problems are my own fault."

Contact Maureen Mullen at mmullen1@nd.edu

## N.J. killer of 22 people gets 11 life sentences

*Former male nursing home worker murdered patients with hard-to-detect drug injections*

Associated Press

SOMERVILLE, N.J. — A former nurse sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms for the murders of 22 people in New Jersey left the families of his victims hurt once again.

During an emotional sentencing hearing Thursday, Charles Cullen refused to explain himself, apologize or even tell a judge why he did not want to talk after relatives of his victims confronted him for the first time, calling him "a monster" and "vermin."

"After today, we will finally toss aside his name and face, like the garbage he is," said Emily Stoecker, whose mother, Eleanor, was murdered.

Cullen — one of the worst serial killers ever discovered within the U.S. health care system — escaped the death penalty after making a deal with prosecutors to tell them which patients he killed with hard-to-detect drug injections.

He had pleaded guilty to murdering 22 people in New Jersey and trying to kill three others. He is scheduled to be sentenced March 10 for seven murders and three attempted murders in Pennsylvania.

Cullen, 46, has claimed to have killed up to 40 people during a career that spanned 16 years and 10 nursing homes and hospitals.

"You betrayed the ancient foundations of the healing professions," Superior Court Judge Paul Armstrong said as Cullen stood motionless, his eyes closed.

Cullen was fired from five nursing jobs and resigned from two others amid questions

about his practices. But he always managed to find another job, in part because hospitals did not share their suspicions for fear of being sued.

New Jersey and Pennsylvania lawmakers have since passed legislation protecting nursing homes and hospitals from legal action when reporting disciplinary actions taken against employees.

About 60 relatives of the victims attended the sentencing. Cullen, wearing a sweater over an open-collar shirt, sat quietly during much of the hearing. As the family members spoke, he kept his eyes closed, frustrating some of the relatives.

Cullen said he had "nothing to say," disappointing families who had hoped to hear him explain why he committed the crimes.

Some family members said they wished Cullen could die as his victims did, by lethal injection.

"I want you to die tomorrow so that you can meet God tomorrow because guess what? There ain't no door out of hell, baby," said Debra Yetter Medina, the granddaughter of victim Mary Natoli.

John Shanagher, whose father was murdered, said his family "will never feel safe in a hospital again. We will never feel we can trust the medical profession again."

Dolores Stasienco of Kitty Hawk, N.C., said Cullen "will always be known as the monster." She held a photo of her father, Giacomino "Jack" Toto, 89, who was murdered in 2003.

## Animal activists convicted in NJ

*Extremists found guilty of using Website to incite threats, vandalism*

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — An animal-rights group and six members were convicted Thursday of using their Website to incite threats, harassment and vandalism against a company that tests drugs and household products on animals.

The group, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, maintained its actions were protected under the First Amendment.

The federal government charged that SHAC waged a five-year campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences, posting on its Website information about the lab's employees and those who do business with Huntingdon, including their home phone numbers, addresses and where their children attended school.

Many of those people saw their homes vandalized, and they and their families received threatening e-mails, faxes and phone calls. Many were also besieged by protesters parading with photos of mutilated animals and screaming "Puppy killer!"

through megaphones at all hours outside their homes.

One woman said she received an e-mail threatening to cut her 7-year-old son open and stuff him with poison. A man said he was showered with glass as people smashed all the windows of his home and overturned his wife's car.

The defendants, all in their late 20s or early 30s, were not accused of directly making threats or carrying out vandalism. Instead, they were charged with inciting the harassment with their Internet postings.

SHAC, based in Philadelphia, and six of its members were charged with animal enterprise terrorism, stalking and other offenses.

They face three to seven years in prison and fines up to \$250,000.

Mike Caulfield, Huntingdon's general manager, said the verdict was "a victory for democracy, research and patients."

"The government and this jury have sent a strong message to those who would ignore the democratic process

and resort to criminal activity to advance their political views," Caulfield said in a statement.

The jury deliberated over three days after a three-week trial.

The defense rested after just one day, and used testimony from the group's president, Pamelyn Ferdin, a former child star who was the voice of Lucy in the "Peanuts" movies and played Felix Unger's daughter Edna on TV's "The Odd Couple." She was not charged.

Ferdin said Thursday that the jury was fooled by the government's case and that a judge's order to remove victims' names and home addresses from its Website reeked of fascism.

"This is a scary path for all Americans," Ferdin said. "Here is a government, a feckless federal government, who spent millions of taxpayer dollars to wage an assault on all our constitutional rights."

Ferdin became leader of the group in 2004 after its former president, Kevin Kionaas and the others were indicted.

Also testifying was one of the defendants, Joshua Harper, who said that he opposes injuring any life form, including humans. But he also said it is all right to throw rocks through someone's window as long as the person isn't home.

*"Here is a government, a feckless federal government, who spent millions of taxpayer dollars to wage an assault on all our constitutional rights."*

**Pamela Ferdin**  
former child star

## Peach farmers braced for frost

Associated Press

ALBANY, Ga. — Georgia and South Carolina peach growers have cleared the first hurdle for producing the sweet, juicy fruit, but they are still a long way from the finish line.

The trees have the necessary number of chill hours below 45 degrees needed to bloom properly and produce fruit. Now, as the trees are about to bloom, growers hope to dodge a late freeze that could kill the blooms and rob them of a full crop, growers say.

"We pretty much have a solid month or three weeks where we bite our nails," said Robert Dickey III of Dickey Farms Inc. in Musella, west of Macon, where the temperature dipped into the mid-20s Monday morning. "They're about a week or so away from blooming."

Georgia and South Carolina are the South's two major peach-producing states. Georgia is known as the "Peach State," but South Carolina usually has a larger crop.

Martin Eubanks, a senior commodity merchandizer for South Carolina's Department of Agriculture, said growers in his state will be watching the weather closely for the next few weeks. Most of South Carolina's peaches are grown in an elevated, well-drained area known as "the ridge" in the central part of the state.

"We have reached adequate chilling hours, so we should be OK," Eubanks said. "Our



Alejandro Barrera empties his bag of peaches during harvest June 9, 2005 at Titan Peach Farms Inc. in Ridge Springs, S.C.

normal full bloom on the ridge is March 15 and we seem to be right on course for this season."

Georgia's 2004 crop was considered one of the sweetest in a decade, but a combination of problems — including a cool, wet spring, a disease outbreak and the remnants of hurricanes that swept through the state — made for disastrous production last year, said Kathryn Taylor, the University of Georgia's peach specialist.

In middle Georgia, where the bulk of the crop is grown, buds are beginning to form on some trees.

"Another week of warm weather and we're going to see some color out there with the early varieties," she said.

Despite an unusually warm winter, peach trees have accumulated more than 1,000 chill hours in middle Georgia and more than 600 hours in southern Georgia.

Frost is a concern to some Georgia growers until Easter.

Harvesting the \$50 million to \$65 million crop will begin in mid to late April in south Georgia and about a month later in Middle Georgia, where 90 percent of the state's 15,000 acres of peaches are grown.

California, the nation's No. 1 peach producer, has about 70,000 acres of peaches and supplies about 45 percent of the domestic crop. South Carolina ranks second with 17,000 acres and Georgia, third.

# McCartney, wife make statement with seals

Former Beatles heartthrob travels to Canada with members of animal rights organizations

Associated Press

ON THE ICE FLOES IN THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE — Paul McCartney and his wife took to the frigid ice floes off the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday in a bid to halt Canada's annual slaughter of weeks-old seal pups.

Animal rights activists contend the killing of the doe-eyed baby seals, who are often clubbed to death, pierced with boat hooks or skinned alive, is cruel and unnecessary, but fishermen say they badly need the income.

The McCartneys, dressed in orange thermal jumpsuits, traveled in helicopters with a dozen journalists, and members of the Humane Society of the United States and the British-based Respect for Animals.

Hundreds of seals and their fluffy white pups, only days old, were lolling on the ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the mothers taking breaks from nursing to bob in the water to fish. The pups will shed their white fur within two weeks, when they become game for fishermen, who get up to \$70 each for their pelts and blubber.

The former Beatle acknowledged residents have hunted seals for hundreds of years.

"Well, in our view, that doesn't make it justifiable," he said. "Plenty of things have been going on for a long time, like slavery. Just because it's been going on for a long time doesn't make it right."

The McCartneys rolled on the ice with one pup, which gently nipped at Heather Mills McCartney and mewed for its mother. She expressed sadness

it and others would likely be killed in a few weeks, their pelts going mostly to Norway, China and Russia.

"They sell the baby seal skins for fashions and fur — that's what's so horrific about it," said Mills McCartney.

The former Beatle implored fishermen to turn instead to ecotourism like whale watching, as communities have done along the Atlantic Coast.

"This is one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on Earth," he said. "It's very rare that you can come to a beautiful, wild place like this. In our view, it would make more sense to look at ecotourism."

Sealers say the hunt has kept their communities afloat for centuries.

"He'll go out there and cuddle up to a whitecoat and they look beautiful, you can't get away from that and it is cruel, you can't get away from that either, but it's something we've done for 500 years," said Jack Troake, a 70-year-old sealer. "It's helped to sustain us. We go to bed with a full stomach, a tight roof over our head. It's part of our culture, our history."

The United States has banned Canadian seal products since 1972 and the European Union banned white baby seal pelts in 1983.

The British government is also considering banning seal goods. Respect for Animals and the Humane Society of the United States, which coordinated the McCartneys' visit, are encouraging a boycott of Canadian seafood.

"I think the McCartneys are two of the most visible people in the world, and with them draw-



Paul McCartney and his wife Heather, left, pose with a seal pup on the ice floes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence Thursday.

ing attention to the fact that this hunt is still going on, this is going to get that message out," said Rebecca Aldworth, a Newfoundlander who is observing her seventh seal hunt for the Humane Society of the United States.

Aldworth has documented on video the gruesome nature of the hunt, in which the wailing pups are bludgeoned or shot dead, their blood spilling over the ice.

She said the McCartneys quizzed her about the slaughter, including the economic benefits for fishermen, whose livelihoods

were devastated when the Atlantic Ocean cod stocks dried up in the mid-1990s.

Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans insists the seals are not killed before they shed their white fur — typically two to three weeks after they are born.

"All these animal rights groups take people out there to pose with these cute little ones. To suggest that they're out there clubbing these little white furry cubs is just wrong. That's completely banned," said Phil Jenkins, a department spokesman.

The government endorses the hunt as a cultural right and announced a management plan in 2003 with a quota of 975,000 seals over three years.

About 325,000 seal pups were killed last year, bringing local fishermen \$14.5 million, which they say their families badly need. The start of this spring's hunt has yet to be announced as mild temperatures have made the ice thin.

## Bill faces opposition in Senate

Proposal calls for new immigrant rights

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Efforts to allow illegal immigrants to eventually become legal U.S. residents were given little chance of winning congressional approval as the Senate began work on an election-year immigration bill.

The legislation pits several Republican constituencies against each other. Social conservatives and governors say the tide of illegal immigrants is overwhelming their state budgets, but businesses say they want to keep them as a source of labor.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said he does not object to allowing illegal immigrants to earn legal permanent residency after several years of work, as proposed by Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

"The political reality is that is going to be very, very difficult to do and to get a bill, if there is no penalty to pay for coming into this country illegally," Specter said.

Specter's committee held its first meeting aimed at trying to complete a bill by the end of March that accommodates all sides in the most controversial domestic issue before Congress this year.

"I have seen virtually no agreement on anything. Emotions are at an all-time high," Specter said.

President Bush has been hoping to deliver a temporary worker program that would allow illegal aliens to keep their jobs in hotels, restaurants, nurseries, agriculture and other businesses that rely on low-wage laborers.



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# THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Friday, March 3, 2006

## THE OBSERVER

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## Changes a step forward for GLBTQ students

One erects a "coming-out closet" on South Quad. The other hosts a coffee hour in CoMo. One periodically saturates campus with orange T-shirts to draw the public eye. The other consistently has Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman's ear.

Clearly, unrecognized gay and lesbian student group AllianceND and the University Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs — this week renamed the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students — have very different approaches to the issue of homosexuality at Notre Dame.

But they share the same worthy goal of making gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer and questioning (GLBTQ) students feel accepted and comfortable at a Catholic university. That's why — though it stops well short of granting a gay and lesbian student group official club status — the step of restructuring the Standing Committee is an encouraging one.

Notre Dame has had its chances to grant official recognition, denying several groups' appeals throughout the last decade. Two years ago — in what was arguably gay and lesbian organizations' best shot at that status to date — the unofficial group OutreachND brought to campus the head of peer Catholic institution Boston College's official gay/straight alliance, who gave an impassioned speech to coincide with Notre Dame's first "Gay? Fine by Me" T-shirt demonstration.

Yet OutreachND was still denied official status in 2004, and recognition appeals have lost significant steam since. The orange shirts that once seemed so revolutionary have declined in shock value — which may be both a positive and

negative development. And while it's not certain that Notre Dame will continue to deny gay and lesbian organizations club status, the University has thus far held firm, with Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Sister Mary Louise Gude telling The Observer this week that there is "absolutely no talk" from the administration about officially recognizing AllianceND.

Amidst this challenging atmosphere, AllianceND should be commended for its persistence in the club application process, as well as its leaders' articulate arguments distinguishing Alliance's functions that an administrative standing committee cannot fulfill. However, AllianceND members — and all Notre Dame students concerned about the University's stance on homosexuality — have reason to cheer the restructuring and

increased student membership and leadership of the Core Council. Notre Dame has characteristically been hesitant to raise the tense issue of homosexuality on campus. But the changes to the Core Council show the administration recognizes — with Notre Dame perennially ranked at or near the top of the Princeton Review's "Alternative Lifestyles Not An Alternative" category — that the University does have a problem that must be addressed.

By acknowledging that gay and lesbian students should be better served at Notre Dame, and by making a genuine effort to seek more student input about how best to accomplish that goal, the University has taken a significant and admirable step towards fulfilling the "Spirit of Inclusion" it promises.

## Editorial

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Basketball correction

I would like to correct two errors that I found in my prior letter to the editor in Viewpoint ("Higher standards for men's basketball" March 1). Notre Dame has participated in men's basketball in the Big East for 11 seasons, not 14, and if the team were to finish this season with 4 wins, it would only equal their worst win total in their conference history. I apologize for the errors, which derive from the fact that what has been 11 years of mostly forgettable basketball has seemed like at least 14 as measured by its agonizing nature. But here is a more important fact, it has been 20 years exactly since Notre Dame last finished in the top 10 nationally in this sport, and that has seemed like 50. The point remains the same, it has been too long since Notre Dame men's basketball really mattered on the national stage and immediate changes are in order at all levels (institutional commitment, coaching and facilities) if success is to be obtained again.

John P. Chute  
alumnus  
Class of 1986  
March 1

### U-WIRE

## Everybody writes

I've long considered the act of writing on the walls of a bathroom stall to be akin to abandoning a shoe on the side of the highway. I never do it, but empirical evidence leads me to believe that plenty of people do.

The trip to the bathroom was actually a break from thesis research, and it occurred just a few minutes after I learned from my reading that credit for the first "blog" is given to someone named Dave Winer, who created his revolutionary web log way back in 1996. Useless as this fact may be, it had me thinking about blogs as I journeyed to the commode.

So there I was, casually glancing at the various messages that covered the stall walls. And then, suddenly, Eureka! I realized I was reading a form of "blog" — a bathroom log — that easily predates anything found on the internet.

The more I thought about it, the more the comparison made sense. Just like web logs, bathroom logs are a forum for a wide breadth of content: lowbrow humor and sexual innuendo, political rants and social commentary. The quality is similar, too. Both types of blogs are mostly crap (cheap pun fully intended, thank you).

I found the content of this particular blog particularly noteworthy. Like most stalls, it is home to plenty of comments unprintable in any publication other than "Hustler," but it also includes numerous quintessentially Princetonian entries, ranging from the desperate — "Who wants to write my thesis? 3/16/04" — to the disaffected — "Ah, sophisticated Princeton intellectualism."

My favorite blog entry, though, is the one scrawled in black Sharpie high on the left wall (from the vantage point of a comfortably seated individual, that is). It is William

David  
Baumgarten

The Daily  
Princetonian  
Princeton  
University

Shakespeare's Sonnet 59, a love poem in which the bard writes that the object of his affection is a muse unrivaled in all of history. The tender verse is, to say the least, completely out of place in a bathroom. The cognitive dissonance bothered me enough, in fact, that I began pondering what motivated the blogger.

Perhaps the sonnet was scrawled in a moment of inspiration — plenty of people do their best thinking on the john, after all. If John Nash made a habit of solving equations and proofs on library window panes, it is certainly possible that a similarly affected English professor uses library bathroom stalls as a similar medium of inspiration.

Still, that wouldn't explain the 99 percent that do not qualify as academic in nature. Perhaps, I thought, humans have something in common with wild animals: the instinct to mark their territory when emptying their bladder.

My point: I'm quite certain that the instinct to blog — in one form or another — is one shared by all of humanity, and it's not nearly as revolutionary or novel as it might seem. Long before awkward adolescents recorded their teen angst with their key-boards, their ancient peers did the same with quill and ink. Perhaps web logs are more public than their historical predecessors were, but man's desire to express himself remains constant.

Everybody writes — that much is clear. Similarly, as children's author Taro Gomi told us, "Everybody Poops." Which means, I think, that bathroom logs are simply a product of convenience.

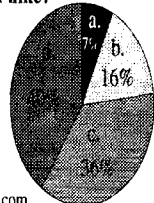
This column first appeared in the March 2 edition of the Daily Princetonian, the daily publication of Princeton University.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

### OBSERVER POLL

What do you think about the tuition hike?

- My family can afford it.
- A Notre Dame education is worth \$45,137.
- I'm worried about the financial strain.
- I'm worried about the trend this sets at Notre Dame.



\*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 614 responses.

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### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"More than print and ink, a newspaper is a collection of fierce individualists who somehow manage to perform the astounding daily miracle of merging their own personalities under the discipline of the deadline and retain the flavor of their own minds in print."

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger  
former New York Times publisher



## Envisioning March 'sadness' without Coach Brey

Most of the Big East's basketball teams eagerly prepare for "March Madness," but Notre Dame is once more drifting in mediocrity, barely qualifying as the lowest tournament seed. Head basketball coach Mike Brey has become the University's basketball equivalent of former head football coach Tyrone Willingham — unworthy to continue coaching at Notre Dame.



**Gary Caruso**

*Capital Comments*

From all accounts, Brey is a wonderful person, great role model, stickler for academic excellence and a detail-oriented basketball tactician. Sadly, from the standards set recently by University President Father John Jenkins and the Board of Trustees, he has failed to maintain their bottom line — wins, losses, post-season appearances and financial gain. So who is the Charlie Weis of basketball lurching in the wings?

It matters not what this writer thinks of Brey's coaching or recruiting talents. It matters not how the official Notre Dame athletic web site spins Brey's virtues while sucking their thumbs and pouting in their patented self-righteous style that typically sours other universities against Notre Dame. The site sulks, "Notre Dame is the only team from one of the six major conferences (ACC, BIG EAST, Big Ten, Big 12,

Pac-10 and SEC) to have a winning record in league play and not receive an NCAA bid in each of the last two seasons."

Priorities at Notre Dame are dictated by the administration without regard to continuity nor righteousness. They mandate that academic "freedom" must give way to a "Catholic character" concept which is never wholly based on the ethical works of Jesus accepting others as much as based on a strictly controlled dogma that presents a University image for public consumption. Academic priorities that once stood above athletic competition fell when Weis replaced Willingham. Ironically, Weis, with a first year 9-3 record, failed to equal Willingham's first-year 10-3 record, although the University did cash large BCS checks both years. Interestingly, Weis has yet to prove if he can win "the big one" in the college ranks.

Brey has little chance of weathering cries for his release if the administration holds true to its precedent. With 17 wins (9-7 in conference) two seasons running and the likelihood of 17 wins again this year (but a poor 6-10 conference record), Brey's game clock is about to wind down. The uncertainty of his fate lies in how a rough shod riding athletic department and a "win, win, win" mentality among various trustees approach Brey's demise.

Will the same bumbling athletic department receive blessings from administrators to unceremoniously and publicly bounce Brey like Willingham, or might they demonstrate discretion, professional-

ism and class by reaching an agreement with Brey behind closed doors? Offering a final year to coach — with or without the public's knowledge of the agreement — would have been the principled way to treat Willingham. It is the only right-minded way to approach Brey.

Make no mistake. This writer could care less if Brey coaches longer than Digger Phelps. Of course we alumni want Notre Dame to win, and frankly we wonder why the athletic department cannot correctly investigate a coaching applicant's resume. Well, actually we do understand that the "Good Ole Boy" culture still reins in the athletic world.

But some alumni definitely do not understand why Notre Dame cannot attract first class coaches who can sustain the winning consistency of Southern California in football and Duke in basketball. It worries others that the "Catholic character" dogma espoused by administrators actually limits coaching opportunities. Willingham's treatment bolsters such thought.

Ara Parsegian's non-Catholic background and knack of beating the Irish with lesser teams won him a coaching job based solely on merit. Many wonder how a high school coach and an assistant with no head coaching experience deserved past opportunities to guide football programs. Both, however, did possess the Catholic character aura Notre Dame likes to portray.

Academic governance should be as easi-

ly recognizable and consistent as our national freedoms. Yet University dogma tarnishes truth with its notion that freedom fit within its religious character. University leaders with pure hearts can function without worries about their public images. If the message is that academic excellence ranks over athletic national championships, then all coaches, regardless of whether or not a coach just happens to be the first minority head coach in University history, should not be evaluated by how much postseason money enters University coffers. The truth lies somewhere between academics and athletics, so the search for the perfect coach needs to be a measured, mutually agreed upon collaboration between University and coach.

One alumnus noted that Division I coaching is like traveling first class on an airplane. Athletic departments like Duke, and several Catholic universities without Catholic character hang-ups, hire the first class coaches — while Notre Dame upgrades its coaches to fit its image. Brey's frequent flyer card is about to be canceled.

*Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at [hotline@aol.com](mailto:hotline@aol.com)*

*The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## University concern asymmetric

Given the extensive discussion stimulated by University President Father John Jenkins' remarks about — and restrictions put upon — the play "The Vagina Monologues," and the renaming and recasting of the Queer Film Festival, a couple of simple points have escaped examination. The first has to do with an aspect of staging the play: "The Vagina Monologues" is the sort of theater that rewards production by amateurs. Any number of mid-level theatrical endeavors profit by an often unstated ratio: level of difficulty to put on versus what proportion of the work's merits will be retained however done. In other words, how much bang for your buck do you get?

"The Vagina Monologues" is not badly served when done by nonprofessionals, whereas if a group of young people with a couple weeks of rehearsal was to stage, say, "The Merchant of Venice," the distance between what the play could be if done well, to what it is when done badly, is quite large. Some theater art is harder to do justice to than other art. This is one reason that Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" is so often done in high schools and by amateurs. It's difficult to do too bad a job with it. Again, a lot of mid-level theater art, such as "The Vagina Monologues," continues to live because of this favorable relationship between demands of the play and its execution.

The second simple point is the question of why "The Vagina Monologues" is done year after year. One could ask that question of the Bengal Bouts. Both "The Vagina Monologues" and the Bengal Bouts are hyper body conscious. Both have been produced year after year to raise money for a good cause. And both are part of evolved traditions, largely continued by dedicated students.

Now, the Bengal Bouts may have some critics, those who don't find much edification in two young men beating on one another, one hoping to vanquish his opponent, perhaps even to knock him senseless. The Bengal Bouts may or may not be the sort of performance that embodies the Catholic character, or the mission of the University (though it earns money for foreign missions). Some homophobes might even find such a spectacle of half-naked young men grappling with and pummeling each other offensive.

For a variety of reasons, staging "The Vagina Monologues" has become a tradition among

female students here at Notre Dame. They pass it down to one another; it is not a faculty-centric production, just as the Bengal Bouts have very little academic faculty involvement. But the battling young men have not been the subject of the president of the University's concern and sanction.

The problem of "The Vagina Monologues" echoes one of the difficulties of the firing of Tyrone Willingham, the first of President Jenkins' large decisions. That became national news because of race. Tyrone Willingham happens to be black and that made his firing more notorious and newsworthy. "The Vagina Monologues" is an all-female show, fixated on the subject of women. The Queer Film Festival was all about, well, queer film. There is a trend here. As in the case of Tyrone Willingham, what many people outside the University see is Notre Dame reacting to groups, not individuals, not ideas, not even ideologies — just blacks, women, gays.

The two simple things I started with certainly can lead to complications, as they have. But one last thing is why Jenkins decided to make "The Vagina Monologues" the focus for reconciling the problems he and others perceive exist concerning the Catholic character of the University. Given the University in all its aspects, "The Vagina Monologues" is one of the smallest things imaginable: A play put on by students in a most humble way as a fund raiser for locally abused women. It is a small, small thing. Too small, one would think, to bother the president of a great university. Why pick on it? Why not, for instance, pick on the University's stock portfolio and see what sort of companies and products the University is supporting with its money? But, "The Vagina Monologues" must have bothered some people more powerful than the female students who put it on each year — and not just the right-wing organizations who complain about the play's performance at Catholic colleges, the same crowd that hounded Father McBrien with exaggerated plagiarism charges. "The Vagina Monologues" must have had enemies in high places. And that is not so simple.

William O'Rourke  
professor  
department of English  
March 2

## Watching Bengal Bouts

The bright flood of light cuts the world in half. The separation is physically reinforced by rope, by canvas, but more powerfully, by the seemingly inviolable line of darkness that divides the room; one half brilliant, breathing, awake — the other half passive and waiting. Nothing exists but the lighted ring, and the two lonely men who stand inside of it. They are only conscious of their bodies, of their sweat, and of the exhilarating mix of fear and excitement that arises from the anticipation of physical exhaustion, pain, and the thin line between victory and defeat. All around them, there is only a sea of black. But that sea is watching, hoping and fearing — and waiting for the bell.

I have been part of the sea of darkness. I have heard the bell ring, have watched the fighters exchange punches, and have felt the waves of excitement and despair that sweep through the blackness. One of the most striking things about boxing is that the crowd shares in the emotion of the fight; the punches make us cringe, they knot our stomachs, they rip the hearts out of our bodies. The contest captures our emotion, our energy, our imagination. We, the faceless crowd, sit transfixed by the violent dance of the ring because it is more than a contest of individual skill and willpower: it is a genuine expression of character, of the beauty of human strength and weakness.

It is an understanding of those things — of human character, strength, and weakness — that the Bengal Bouts cultivates. The students who spend several hours every day toning their bodies and sharpening their minds in the depths of the Joyce Center are learning more than the cadence of punching exercises. Continually pressed to achieve by their coaches and captains, they learn how to sacrifice themselves to something higher; they come to know the meaning of physical and mental exertion, of determination, and of dedication. And those lessons are not only physically strengthening, they are spiritually fulfilling. How else can one explain why over one-hundred and twenty Notre Dame students are irresistibly drawn to the Boxing Club year after year? Through the blood and sweat shed during their intensive training, they come to know the power of their bodies, the power of the bonds formed between brothers, and the power of their God.

Every young man who summons the strength to don the blue and gold and dares to cross that stark division between the light and darkness — the division between observer and fighter — has learned those lessons. They fight for victory, but they also fight for each other, for Notre Dame, and for all of the Bangladeshis who will feel the healing salve of their dedication. They have been ceaselessly drilled, they have pushed their limits, they have sacrificed themselves for the simple love of the sacrifice. And as they dance around the lighted ring, they represent the perfection of amateur athleticism. Watching them is beautiful, it is inspiring, it is a gift to every one of us who silently sits in the darkness, each of us holding our breath as we share their emotions.

Patrick McGill  
Yale University  
Class of 2006  
March 2

## DPAC SPOTLIGHT

# Bogart, Cagney headline film noir festival

By ANALISE LIPARI  
Scene Writer

Names like James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart, images of dark detectives' offices and back-end New York alleyways, jarring music and frightening violence — all are hallmarks of a particular brand of Hollywood cinema known most widely by its French name, "film noir."

This weekend the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts (DPAC) plays host to a number of acclaimed film noir classics in the latest of its film festivals.

The diverse selection of films, both French and American, reflects the best and most famous characteristics of the genre. Each has put a distinct stamp on a typical set of film conventions.

The first of the two French films, the 1937 classic "Pepe le Moko," is the story of a French gangster living in the Casbah neighborhood of Algiers. Pepe is the kingpin of the Algiers crime circle, but with French and Algerian police closing in, he struggles to elude them while falling in love with Gaby, a Parisian tourist.

Film historians view "Pepe" as a cornerstone for its time. It was remade nearly frame-for-frame a few years later in the American film "Algiers," as well as being a significant influence on "Casablanca" and other later films.

"Julien Duvivier's flawlessly entertaining 1937 film single-handedly introduced a now classic character: the raffish, conflicted, tragic anti-hero," film critic Jürgen Fauth wrote in an article for about.com. "Without Pepe Le Moko, played by Jean Gabin, there would not have been a

Humphrey Bogart, a Steve McQueen, a Jean-Paul Belmondo or a Bruce Willis."

The second featured film is also the second pairing of one of Hollywood's favorite screen couples in Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. "The Big Sleep" is widely considered to be a hallmark of detective stories, taking Bogart's character and plot type from "The Maltese Falcon" and reformulating it with a witty script and skilled performances.

In "The Big Sleep," Bogart's Christopher Marlowe is hired to protect the youngest daughter of an American General, falling in love with his older daughter Vivian (Bacall) along the way.

"The story hardly matters, though — it's all about the denouement," a recent article from reel.com said. "This is an exercise in high style that Hollywood often attempts and almost never attains."

"The Big Sleep" is praised for its smooth

and polished style, as well as its characteristic but unique character formation.

"Bogart's Marlowe is a man relaxed with himself,

not just cool, but humorous in the face of danger," the article said.

The third picture, Orson Welles' 1958 triumph "Touch of Evil," is viewed by critics as harkening the end of the reign of film noir in Hollywood. It tells a complicated and intricate tale of murder and features an oddly Hispanic Charlton Heston. Welles' characteristically unique cinematography proves no exception here.

"Welles and his cinematographer, Russell Metty, were not simply showing off," Roger Ebert said in his online review, having noted the film's famous three-minute opening shot. "The destinies of all



Photo courtesy of members.shaw.ca

The DPAC's latest film festival highlights the famed genre "film noir." One of the festival's most famous films is "The Big Sleep" starring Humphrey Bogart.

of the main characters are tangled from beginning to end, and the photography makes that point by trapping them in the same shots, or tying them together ... "

"Le Cercle Rouge," the fourth film of the festival, features the typical jewel heist but with exceptional characters and perspectives. Alain Delon stars as Corey, a thief recently released from prison who joins forces with a murderer and a former cop to pull off what will be the greatest of all robberies. With an obsessed police superintendent, Mattei, on their tail, an impending sense of doom and guilt haunts the criminals.

"Gliding almost without speech down the dawn streets of a wet Paris winter," Roger Ebert said in a May 2003 review, "these men in trench coats and fedoras perform a ballet of crime, hoping to win and fearing to die."

The festival's final film, "Kiss Me Deadly," is a curious combination of film noir and science fiction. Opening with a

near accident and closing with an explosion, the film chronicles the tail of private eye Mike Hammer (Ralph Meeker), specifically after he picks up a femme fatale hitchhiker (a young Cloris Leachman).

"Deadly" is one of film noir's most unique and poignant examples and is acknowledged as a significant inspiration for the French New Wave in the 1950s.

The film features a manic search for the "great whatzit," a symbolically modern Pandora's box, which proves violently disastrous for the film's characters. The overall tone of doomed protagonists distinguishes the feel of "Deadly" as downright slimy.

"Though Hammer is presented here as a modern day Pandora, it's less disturbing that he finds evil than that he doesn't have to look very far to find it," Heilman said. "It's seeping through every crack of every dirty sidewalk trying to get at him."

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

## SCENE FEATURE

# Chart-topping country music pair spurs sales

By LIZ BYRUM  
Assistant Scene Editor

With a collection of multi-platinum albums, a successful marriage, three beautiful children and a new joint tour about to kick off, there might not be a luckier duo than Tim McGraw and Faith Hill.

The famous country couple, who live on a large estate outside Nashville, Tenn., with their daughters Maggie, Gracie and Audrey, just keep climbing the country ladder.

Over the past year, Hill released her first new album since 2002's "Cry." This new release, titled "Fireflies," takes a wide turn away from the commercial glitz that had become the center focus of Hill's more recent albums. With the help of songs like "Mississippi Girl," (in which Hill sings "They might know me all around the world / But y'all I'm still a Mississippi girl") and "Dearly Beloved," a goofy tune about a shotgun wedding, Faith Hill takes a trip back to her country roots.

Since the album was released on Aug. 2, 2005, it has reached number one on Billboard's Top 200, and has remained on the charts for close to 30 weeks. Hill has also seen success with the most recent single released from the CD — a new power ballad duet with her husband of ten years, Tim McGraw. The soulful song, titled "Like We Never Loved At All" is about the heartbreak and misunderstanding that comes with the end of a relationship. Hill's voice is

as powerful and beautiful as it has always been, and the compliment of McGraw's country lilt creates the perfect tone for the subject of the song. The music video for "Like We Never Love At All" portrays Tim and Faith as 1960s performers — complete with amazing sets, lighting and costume.

On his own time, Tim McGraw has been preparing for the release of his second greatest hits album, "Tim McGraw Greatest Hits, Vol 2: Reflected." Although this CD will not be released in stores until March 28, the album is sure to please McGraw's loyal fans, as it includes all of his latest and greatest hits. Favorites on the album include ballads like "She's My Kind of Rain," "Live Like you were Dying" and the emotional "Red Rag Top." On a lighter note, songs like "Real Good Man" show McGraw definitely has a fun side ("I may be a real bad boy / but baby I'm a real good man"). The album also includes "Over and Over," McGraw's crossover duet with rapper Nelly, which has never been released on any of Tim's CDs before now.

Accompanying the release of his new greatest hits album, McGraw will follow in the footsteps of his good friend and fellow country crooner, Kenny Chesney, by starring in a TV special, "Tim McGraw: Reflected" on NBC April 5. The show will feature a look at McGraw at home at his Nashville farm and a performance at an intimate New York Club. This summer, McGraw will also follow up his role in the film "Friday Night Lights" with another movie, "Flicka," about a young girl who



Photos courtesy of sihope.com and ebrandon.net

Faith Hill and Tim McGraw, arguably one of country music's most famous couples, will be combining their musical talents again on the "Soul2Soul Tour II."

adopts a wild mustang.

On April 22, the famous couple will take all of their hard work on the road as they reunite on stage for a joint tour for the first time since their original "Soul2Soul" Tour in 2000. The new "Soul2Soul II" Tour will be the first time since their previous tour that Hill has taken her show on the road. Until now, she has spent most of her time with their young daughters. In a recent interview with Oprah Winfrey, the couple said that now that their girls are a little older, they feel more comfortable giving them some freedom on the road. This gives Hill the time to prepare and dive back into

their tour (as usual, their daughters will be traveling with them as they roam the country).

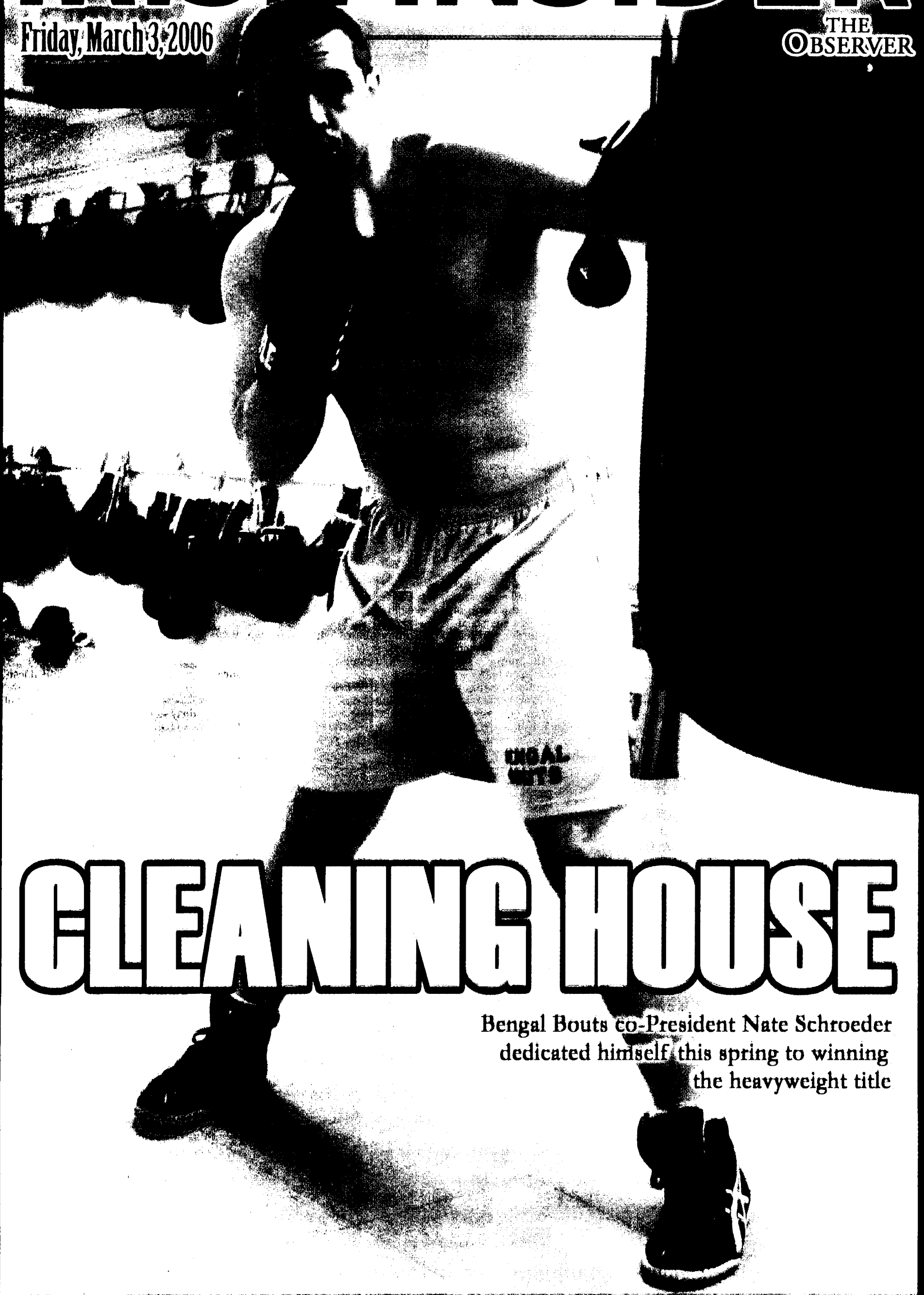
With a new tour that is quickly selling out large venues around the country, and many other personal and professional ventures awaiting them, it doesn't seem like McGraw and Hill's talent or luck will run out anytime soon. If fans are lucky enough to snatch up tickets for the "Soul2Soul II" Tour, they will not be disappointed by either of these successful country performers.

Contact Liz Byrum at ebyrum@nd.edu

# IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 3, 2006

THE  
OBSERVER



## CLEANING HOUSE

Bengal Bouts co-President Nate Schroeder dedicated himself this spring to winning the heavyweight title

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRAHAM EBBISON AND PAUL HOWELSON/THE OBSERVER



# Schaefer overcomes jitters and tough foes

Senior entered tournament as No. 2 seed after shoulder surgery a year ago

By TIM DOUGHERTY  
Sports Writer

When senior Bengal Bouts co-captain Greg Schaefer wakes up on fight-day mornings, the radio is on and he's moving back and forth in his Notre Dame Ave. apartment, trying to keep his jitters from bossing him around.

He arrives at the Joyce Center hours before his scheduled match that day. He checks his look in the mirror — analyzing his phantom punches at a fantasy opponent hours away from their dance in the dark. Then he does his best to devoid his mind of all things boxing.

He even strums a little guitar — anything petty to keep from obsessing over the canvas dream he has been running down for years.

"I get real nervous," Schaefer said. "I think a lot of the guys do."

For Schaefer, though, the pre-fight has been longer than "a lot of the guys." A nagging shoulder injury has kept him from finishing a tournament bout since his freshman debut that ended in

a split-decision semifinal loss in the 155-pound weight class.

His problems started one day during the six weeks of training in the fall of his sophomore year, when Schaefer dealt a punch but his shoulder would not let him take it back. Instead of throwing a fist, he threw his shoulder right out of socket.

A surprise setback for the accountancy major, his shoulder problem bothered him throughout training. The shoulder popped out again during the first round of his sophomore fight, which he could not continue.

"You don't want to get surgery, unless you absolutely have to," he said. "So I tried to let it heal on its own."

But it happened again during training his junior year, and this time "it stayed out," requiring a successful surgery last March.

"The surgery went fine," Schaefer said. "It hasn't slipped out so far. This season's going well. I feel pretty confident."

Now as the No. 2-seeded senior in the 160-pound bracket, this tournament is Schaefer's final opportunity to take home the title — though he would not

*"We have to carry on the tradition. We have to help pound into the guys' heads that we're raising money for the missions in Bangladesh."*

**Greg Schaefer**  
boxer

*"Every guy you ever fought, you have a mutual respect for that person. One of the great things about the program is the camaraderie you get with fellow boxers. It's a different type of friendship."*

**Greg Schaefer**  
boxer



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Senior Bengal Bouts captain Greg Schaefer, right, deflects Phil Albonetti's punch during Schaefer's quarterfinal victory in the Bengal Bouts at the Joyce Center Tuesday. A year after shoulder surgery, Schaefer is the No. 2 seed in the 160-pound division.

have far to take it.

A native of Granger, Ind., and alumnus of Penn High School, Schaefer's Bengal Bouts wait began before he entered Notre Dame as a student.

He remembers his father, a Notre Dame professor, asking him to come watch some of his students fight. That experience hooked Schaefer right where it counted — the adrenaline gland.

"I was amazed that all these guys were pounding on each other — with all their friends

watching," Schaefer said. "I told myself if I got into Notre Dame that was definitely something I wanted to do. So I signed up freshman year at activities night."

Now he is a captain, devoting to the boxing program three to four hours a day, six days a week — an experience more rewarding than he could have imagined as a high schooler.

He said it is a great feeling helping the novices, who he estimates make up almost half the program, "to teach them a move and see them do it in the ring."

After four years of participating in Bengal Bouts, his position means much more to him than a chance to pound fists.

"We have to carry on the tradition," he said. "We have to help pound into the guys' heads that we're raising money for the missions in Bangladesh."

Our president sends out a solidarity report on how our efforts have helped someone from Bangladesh survive. I can't say I've ever done anything quite like it before."

One of those co-presidents is Schaefer's friend senior Mark Basola, who happens to be the defending champion at 160 — and Schaefer's only higher-seeded foe.

Their friendship, like their boxing history, traces years ago to their time in Keough Hall, where Basola is still a resident assistant.

Schaefer remembers one of his first freshman matches against Basola, an evenhanded spar that saw turning heads and wild swings,

describing it as "one of the ugliest matches you've ever seen."

Those early fights remain printed into his memory because they began friendships.

"Every guy you ever fought," he said, "you have a mutual respect for that person. One of the great things about the program is the camaraderie you get with fellow boxers. It's a different type of friendship."

Amid all the lessons learned and causes helped, Schaefer does not forget what first drew him to the program.

After all, his nickname is Greg "Still Shaffdog" from the Block" Schaefer — that block not far from campus in Granger, from where his father first whetted his appetite with that unexpected visit to the Bouts.

Since then he has trained, rehabilitated and — hardest of all — waited.

He remembers that feeling, though, right before it is time to take the ring, and he knows how important it is to maintain focus amid all the hoopla.

"It gets really intense," he said. "Your nerves start going and everyone is yelling at you. A lot of guys will lose all their technique when they go out there, but you've still got to maintain everything you've learned."

For Schaefer, the wait to compete is over, but he hopes he still has the pleasure of at least one more fight-day wait to come.

Contact Tim Dougherty at [tdougher@nd.edu](mailto:tdougher@nd.edu)



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Senior Bengal Bouts captain Greg Schaefer, right, winds up to punch Phil Albonetti during Schaefer's quarterfinal Bengal Bouts victory at the Joyce Center Tuesday.

# Traditions of toughness

*First-year boxer Brian DeSplinter is brother of three-time champ but blazes his own path in this year's Bengal Bouts tournament*

By ERIC RETTER  
Sports Writer

A lot of kids follow the athletic trails their older brothers blazed for them.

Not so many walk in the exact footsteps.

Like his older brother Mark before him, freshman Brian DeSplinter has started his boxing career and carried on the torch of a family tradition.

Before the first season of his young Bengal Bouts career came to a close — DeSplinter lost his quarterfinal fight to Michael Schmitt Feb. 28 — DeSplinter reflected on his progress through the men's boxing program.

"I can't believe I made it through the training and all that sort of thing. I didn't think I'd be able to," he said. "It started off [with me wondering] whether or not I could get through the workouts — and then whether or not I could in the ring. ... It's pretty amazing how far I've come."

Throughout his first year in the ring, Brian did his best to pick up where his brother, a 2005 graduate and three-time Bengal Bouts champion, left off.

"I talked to him [before my first round fight]," Brian DeSplinter said. "He told me what I should do before the bouts, mentally and stuff like that. He's been a lot of help."

Some of that help came this past fall, during the novice season, when the older DeSplinter returned to South Bend and helped his younger brother work on some of the finer points of the sport.

"I went back to campus this year while he was in training, and it was amazing," Mark DeSplinter said. "I would get in the ring with him, [and] it was fun, with the pointers I gave him, coming to practice and seeing how good he was — seeing how it all came together."

Perhaps because of his success in the ring, the elder DeSplinter didn't initially talk to his brother about boxing.

"He didn't want to give me a lot of help at first, because he didn't want to make me think that I had to [box]," Brian DeSplinter said.

But as Brian began showing increasing interest, his older brother stepped in and began



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

**Brian DeSplinter, right, punches Michael Schmitt during DeSplinter's loss in the quarterfinals of Bengal Bouts Feb. 28. DeSplinter's brother Mark won three titles.**

to pass his wisdom on to his younger brother.

"He came down to the boxing room once or twice, moved around with me and showed me some stuff," Brian DeSplinter said.

While the story of an older brother helping his younger sibling along an athletic path is an old one, the relationship between the DeSplinters has a unique link. In each of their most recent seasons, each brother has worn a blood-stained sweatshirt to each and every practice throughout the season, never washing it between the beginning of the semester and the end of the bouts.

The tradition started during the 2004 novice season last year, when Mark DeSplinter, a senior captain, was working out after a practice.

"[A friend and I] were downstairs [in the boxing room] when we really shouldn't have been. ... I was fighting pretty well, and I kind of got a little cocky, throwing kind of wild punches and not really protecting myself," Mark DeSplinter recalled. "All of a sudden, my friend comes underneath and just nails me with a right hand and almost shatters my nose. It exploded ... and my sweatshirt just got covered in my blood. I was close to not being able to fight that year because my nose was so busted up, bleeding every

time it was touched."

Instead of calling it a bad practice and writing the injury off as a mistake, Mark DeSplinter instead chose to make an example of the incident.

"What I did was, I never watched the sweatshirt, because it reminded me that you can lose so easily if you every got cocky, so it reminds me never to get cocky."

In part because of the superstitious luck the bloody sweatshirt brought his brother last season — DeSplinter dominated the 165 class to win his third title — Mark opted to follow down the same path when a similar incident occurred.

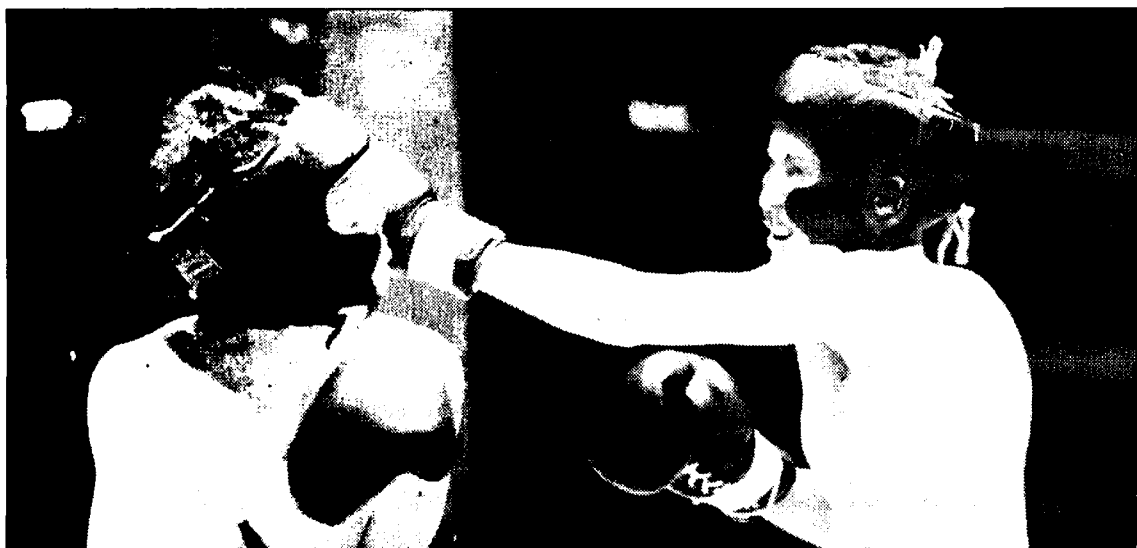
"When I got a bloody nose on my sweatshirt [early this season] I said 'nope, not gonna wash it until I win,'" Brian DeSplinter said.

Though he didn't advance as far as he wanted, DeSplinter won his first fight, and, if he keeps true to his word, his sweatshirt will be clean before he reports to practice next January.

As his brother Brian's career progresses, Mark DeSplinter hopes that his sibling will get the same meaning out of the program that he got.

"Bengal Bouts was the best thing I did at ND," Mark said. "There's nothing like it."

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PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

**Brian DeSplinter, right, punches Jim Duffy during preliminary round Bengal Bouts action Feb. 21. DeSplinter lost in the quarterfinals to Mike Schmitt.**

*Junior John Bush's grandfather Jack won a Bengal Bouts title as an ND student in 1952*

By ERIC RETTER  
Sports Writer

When Jack Bush last fought for the Bengal Bouts Heavyweight crown in 1952, the division was still filled with football players using the program for offseason conditioning, cameras captured each fight for television audiences, and Rocky Marciano had never lost a fight.

Fifty-four years later, when his grandson, John Bush, enters the ring for a match being filmed for CSTV, the only difference will be the absence of football players in the weight class.

For John Bush, his grandfather's legacy has played a part in encouraging him to get a pair of 16-ounce gloves and step into the ring. Like his grandfather Jack Bush more than 50 years ago, John Bush is a member of the boxing club at Notre Dame — and Sunday he will attempt to further

family comparisons as he fights in the Bengal Bouts' heavyweight championship fight.

While family played an important role in his boxing aspirations, John Bush — now in his second year competing in the Bouts — decided to fight for numerous reasons.

"I started after freshman year, after seeing the fights and how exciting they were," he said. "There was also influence from my grandpa, because my parents told me he had done it."

In these two years, John Bush has found his experience rewarding.

"I like it a lot so far because, first off, it helps add balance with academics and stuff like that," John Bush said. "Secondly, I like it because it's a good way to stay in shape, obviously, and thirdly, it's a great way to meet a bunch of guys."

Beyond that, his fighting career has given him a common ground with his grandfather, a 1952 Bengal Bouts champion.

"I've talked to him on a certain level and [tried to teach him a couple things]," Jack Bush said.

Since beginning his career, John Bush has also received advice from his great uncle Joe Bush — Jack Bush's brother — and another former Bengal Bouts participant.

"When I was home for Christmas, [my grandfather and I] would talk about it, he would offer his advice," John Bush said. "He and his brother both did it — they fought each other in the championship actually — and they both would give me their two cents."

In those meetings, John quickly picked up on whose lessons he should pay more attention to.

"I listened more to my grandpa Jack, he ended up victorious in the end," John Bush said.

In the 54 years since the fight, much family legend has developed around it. According to Joe Bush — who was two years younger than Jack Bush — their mother sat him down and told him to take it easy on his senior brother. His time would come, Joe's mother said.

Jack, however, good-naturedly disputes the rumors.

"No, nothing like that happened," Jack Bush said. "We were both pretty good fighters, [but] I was a right-hander and had a pretty good jab."

John Bush also confirms the story as legend.

"That's all speculative," he said.

Still, those fights hold a special place in Jack Bush's memory.

"They were televised in Chicago [in those days], and Rocky Marciano was the referee," Jack Bush said.

For his part, the elder Bush had been hoping his grandson would make the championship, giving him a chance to revisit his alma mater.

"I'd love to come, particularly if John made the finals," Jack Bush said in an interview with The Observer Feb. 25. "I felt bad not coming last year to the celebration of the 75th anniversary."

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DUSTIN MENNELA/The Observer

**John Bush, left, punches Matt Bono during their quarterfinal match Feb. 28. Bush defeated Clarence Ervin III in the semifinals Thursday to earn a spot in the Sunday's heavyweight final.**

## 125-pounds



WILL MARRA V. MATT GELCHION

### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Gelchion

KEN FOWLER  
Gelchion

The championship in the 125-pound weight class features sophomore Will Marra against freshman Matt Gelchion.

Marra has fought twice to make it to the finals, defeating Nicholas McLees on Tuesday when the referee stopped the fight in the third round before winning a split decision over top-seed Peter Sarpong.

Gelchion has fought for only 30 seconds in the entire tournament, knocking out Nate Serazin in the semifinals on Thursday night.

While Marra has proven to be an aggressive fighter, Gelchion, with less than a minute under his belt, will be more of a question mark.

## 132-pounds



CHRIS IZAGUIRRE V. KRIS PEREZ

### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Perez

KEN FOWLER  
Izaguirre

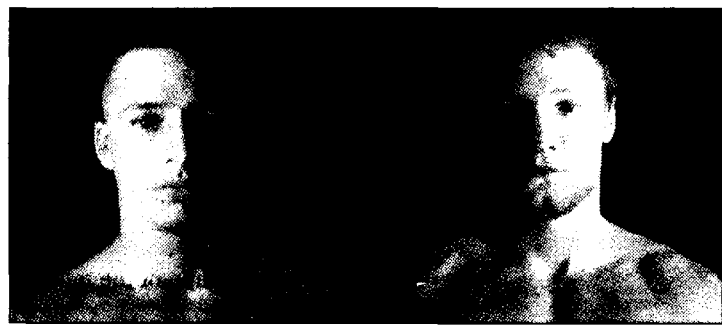
The 132-pound final will showcase sophomore Chris Izaguirre versus freshman Kris "El Azteca" Perez.

Izaguirre won three fights to make it this far, including a quarterfinal upset over No.1-seed Sagar Navare.

After a first round-bye, Perez has won two fights, with the referee stopping the contest each time.

Izaguirre should use his height and size in the fight, while Perez will likely continue to be the aggressor to offset the size mismatch.

## 140-pounds



LAWRENCE SULLIVAN V. MIKE HENNIG

### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Hennig

KEN FOWLER  
Sullivan

The 140-pound championship fight features Lawrence "The Boston Massacre" Sullivan against Mike "Just Call Me Merck" Hennig.

Hennig, the No. 2 seed in the tournament, has TKO'd two of his three opponents using his aggressive but controlled style.

Sullivan has moved through the tournament in a defensive, counter-punching fashion, taking advantage of his opponent's mistakes.

Both should look to come out using styles similar to those that got them to the finals as they look to capture the title.

## 145-pounds



ANDREW MCGILL V. TOMMY FORR

### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
McGill

KEN FOWLER  
McGill

The 145-pound weight class championship pits junior Andrew McGill against junior Tommy "Fightin' for Milk" Forr.

McGill, a captain and one of the more technically skilled fighters in the program, has yet to be tested, as he has cruised through his first three matches.

Forr has utilized an all-out attack to bully opponents.

While it has worked thus far, he has sometimes tired towards the end of fights.

Against McGill, a very-well conditioned fighter, Forr's conditioning may be an issue.

## 150-pounds



JOHN O'CONNELL V. BRET SHAPOT

### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Shapot

KEN FOWLER  
Shapot

In the 150-pound weight division, freshman John "The Highlight" O'Connell will square off against Bret "The Mail Never Stops" Shapot.

O'Connell has won unanimously in all of his fights, demonstrating a deadly combination of speed and power.

Shapot, who has been outsized at times during the tournament, but is a smart and fundamentally strong fighter.

The battle between these two fighters should be intense and back-and-forth.

## 155-pounds



CHRIS CALDERONE V. ZACHARY JARA

### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Jara

KEN FOWLER  
Jara

The 155-pound weight class final will see junior Chris Calderone against junior Zachary Jara.

Other than Calderone's split-decision quarterfinal win against Anthony Schweiss, both fighters have overmatched their opponents in impressive victories.

This matchup has been in the works since the beginning of the tournament, as the duo entered as the top two seeds.

Both are smart and technically skilled, and this should be one of the closest and most exciting finals of the tournament.



## 160-pounds



### JEFFREY HAUSFELD V. GREG SCHAEFER

#### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Schaefer  
KEN FOWLER  
Schaefer

Sophomore Jeffrey Hausfeld will face senior captain Greg Schaefer in the finals of the 160-pound weight division.

Hausfeld, a hard-puncher with a tendency for wildness, will be looking to defeat the second captain of his Bengal Bouts campaign.

Schaefer should look to keep the fight from turning into a brawl, which would benefit Hausfeld.

## 165-pounds



### CHARLIE GOUGH V. BILLY HEDERMAN

#### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Hederman  
KEN FOWLER  
Gough

The championship in the 165-pound weight class will feature senior Charlie Gough against law student Billy Hederman.

The two fighters have a similar style, as both have effectively used their jab to create opportunities during fights. Hederman showed he has the power to stop fights early, TKO'ing Matt Hazlebeck in his quarterfinal match.

## 170-pound



### BRIAN NICHOLSON V. ANDREW BRESLIN

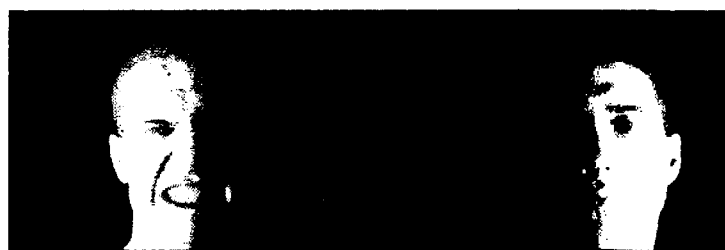
#### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Nicholson  
KEN FOWLER  
Nicholson

The 170-pound championship will pit two smart and experienced fighters in seniors Brian Nicholson and Andrew Breslin, a captain.

Nicholson, a much taller fighter, should use his jab and extensive reach advantage to keep the smaller Breslin away. Breslin should try to get underneath Nicholson's long arms and use his hooks — one of his better punches — to work Nicholson's body.

## 180-pound



### DAN WARD V. JEFF GOLEN

#### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Ward  
KEN FOWLER  
Golen

In the 180-pound division, senior Jeff Golen will take on junior Dan Ward.

The two fighters employ contrasting styles, as Ward is one of the toughest fighters to hit and focuses on quick, precise punches, while Golen is an aggressive and technically sound fighter with lots of power.

Golen must increase the tempo of the fight to win.

## CRUISERWEIGHT



### JOHNNY GRIFFIN V. PATRICK K. RYAN

#### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Griffin  
KEN FOWLER  
Griffin

The Cruiserweight title fight will feature senior Johnny Griffin against sophomore Patrick K. Ryan.

Griffin, arguably the best fighter in the bouts, is an aggressive fighter with great power. A quick puncher, Griffin should look to capitalize with big combinations. Ryan should look to keep his distance and pick his spots, bringing a full attack when he decides to engage Griffin.

## HEAVYWEIGHT



### NATHAN SCHROEDER V. JOHN BUSH

#### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Schroeder  
KEN FOWLER  
Schroeder

The Heavyweight bracket championship will feature senior co-president Nathan Schroeder against junior John Bush.

Bush, a southpaw, will try to fight like the bigger fighter and keep Schroeder away with his long reach. Schroeder, a crafty boxer with knockdown power, will look to get inside and throw, especially if Bush trade punches.

## SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT



### TONY CUNNINGHAM V. BRIAN KOENEN

#### PICKS

ERIC RETTER  
Koenen  
KEN FOWLER  
Koenen

The Super-Heavyweight division final will pit junior Tony Cunningham against junior Brian Koenen.

In his earlier fights, Cunningham has often charged directly at his opponents. While often effective, these bombardments have at times been reckless and generally leave him exhausted. Koenen should look to move and avoid the charges and land more controlled combinations if Cunningham gets tired.

## 76th Annual Bengal Bouts

Sunday, March 5, 2005

1:30 p.m.

Joyce Center Arena

Fight Previews by Eric Retter

Photos by Claire Kelley

Graphics by Matt Hudson and Dustin Mennella

# Breslin philosophical about Bengal competition

Senior captain looking for victory in his first trip to the tournament championship

By KATE GALES  
Associate Sports Editor

He's a resident assistant, an engineer and a golfer. But a street fighter?

Not really.

"I've never been in a fight," senior Bengal Bouts co-captain Andrew Breslin admitted.

But that doesn't count his three

years of boxing experience at Notre Dame, of course. Breslin, a senior from Alumni Hall and native of Sugarloaf, Penn., started boxing after being inspired by a friend during his first year at Notre Dame.

"Freshman year, one of my good friends was involved and he went to the finals," Breslin said. "He beat a bunch of the captains along the way — kind of an underdog story. He ended up los-

ing in the finals, but that in itself is why I started boxing."

Breslin, who played soccer and tennis, ran cross-country, and now skis, said he had never boxed before coming to campus.

Four years later, he finds younger boxers looking to him for guidance.

"For the most part, the most rewarding part is kids, when they want to learn and you can see it in their eyes that they want to be better, they just constantly are asking you questions," Breslin said. "That's really where being a captain comes in. The kids who want to make that leap from being a novice boxer to a good boxer, we're their outlet for that, and that's the role I see myself playing this year."

There is more to captaining than training, though.

"Being a captain is the most rewarding thing in Bengal Bouts because we run practice, we run the ad sales, we run pretty much everything," he said.

Breslin said the competition of boxing is unlike anything else.

"The pit of your stomach drops out and you don't really know what you're doing and all of a sudden a bell rings," he said. "And once the bell rings, it's like, it's that self-actualization, self-realization."

Breslin said that the individual nature of boxing is one of the most demanding parts of it.

"A lot of people have written about the mirror work we do and also about the lines between the lights and the dark," he said.

"When you're in the ring, it's you and the lights. You never really see who's in front of you, the referee is just some voice you don't even pay attention to. It's just you, and it's that time where it's just you and what you can do."

Breslin lost in the preliminary rounds as a sophomore in his first year of competition.

"Last year, I lost very, very

close split decision in the semis," he said. His opponent eventually won the championship by default.

"Based on my performance last year is why I became a captain this year. ... Anything short of winning this year wouldn't be a disappointment, but I have the skills and the ability to win this year, whoever I'm facing in my bracket."

Breslin, a mechanical engineering major, will be working in Cincinnati for General Electric next fall. He has accepted a position in the company's Aviation Edison engineering development program.

"It's a complete reflection of self, and that reflection of self allows you to carry it on through everything else you do in your life," Breslin said.

His passion for Bengal Bouts is for the boxing and also the mission.

"Initially, the attraction to boxing was the boxing," he said. "The mission was just kind of like icing on the cake. ... Once I got the full story I was hooked — it was boxing [and] raising money."

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PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Andrew Breslin punches Brian Kantor in their quarterfinal match Feb. 28. Breslin, left, won the bout by technical knockout.

## Cruiserweight Griffin looks for second title in three years

By CHRIS KHOREY  
Sports Writer

Winning it all in his first tournament is hard to top.

Johnny Griffin, the top-seeded cruiserweight in this year's bouts, did just that — and con-

siders it the best boxing experience of his life.

"My favorite memory of boxing is the championship fight sophomore year," he said when he was crowned the champion of the light heavyweight division.

Although Griffin was com-

ing in the Bouts for the first time in 2004 — he participated in practice as a freshman but was unable to fight due to illness, The Observer called him "one of the best natural fighters the Bengal Bouts has seen in years."

In 2005, Griffin lost in a split

decision to Billy Zizic, a powerful graduate student, in one of the closest matches of the tournament.

But this has been a more reflective year. As one of the senior captains in 2006, Griffin has worked not only to polish his own skills, but also to help improve the skills of others.

"It was a lot easier when I was a member instead of a captain," he said. "They're looking to you [for a lot of leadership]. ... It's a whole different standpoint."

The senior philosophy major has worked to balance his own workouts, captain's duties and schoolwork.

"It takes a lot more time, you help with [younger boxers'] practice and then go back out and practice and still get your practice done," he said. "[Then] get your homework done after three hours of helping everyone else."

Griffin said boxing at Notre Dame was unique in how it combined a team aspect with the individual nature of boxing.

"I'd say training [is the most challenging part]," he said. "Boxing is a team sport the way Notre Dame does it. It's not really a team sport."

The difference between training for Bengal Bouts and training for another boxing tournament are seen in the workouts the fighters go through.

"It's not like a regular boxing gym where you have a personal trainer, random guys watching

to help you — it's really focused on yourself," Griffin said. "That and the fact that you're training with your oppo-

*"It's not like a regular boxing gym where you have a personal trainer, random guys watching to help you — it's really focused on yourself."*

Johnny Griffin  
captain

nents all year, that's one of the most rewarding parts, training with those guys all year long, pushing each other and pushing each other."

Griffin first got involved with Bengal Bouts during his freshman year, but a bout with mono interrupted his first season.

"That's what got me into boxing in general — my freshman year, the boxing table at Activities Night," he said. "I caught mono so I couldn't do it freshman year, but sophomore

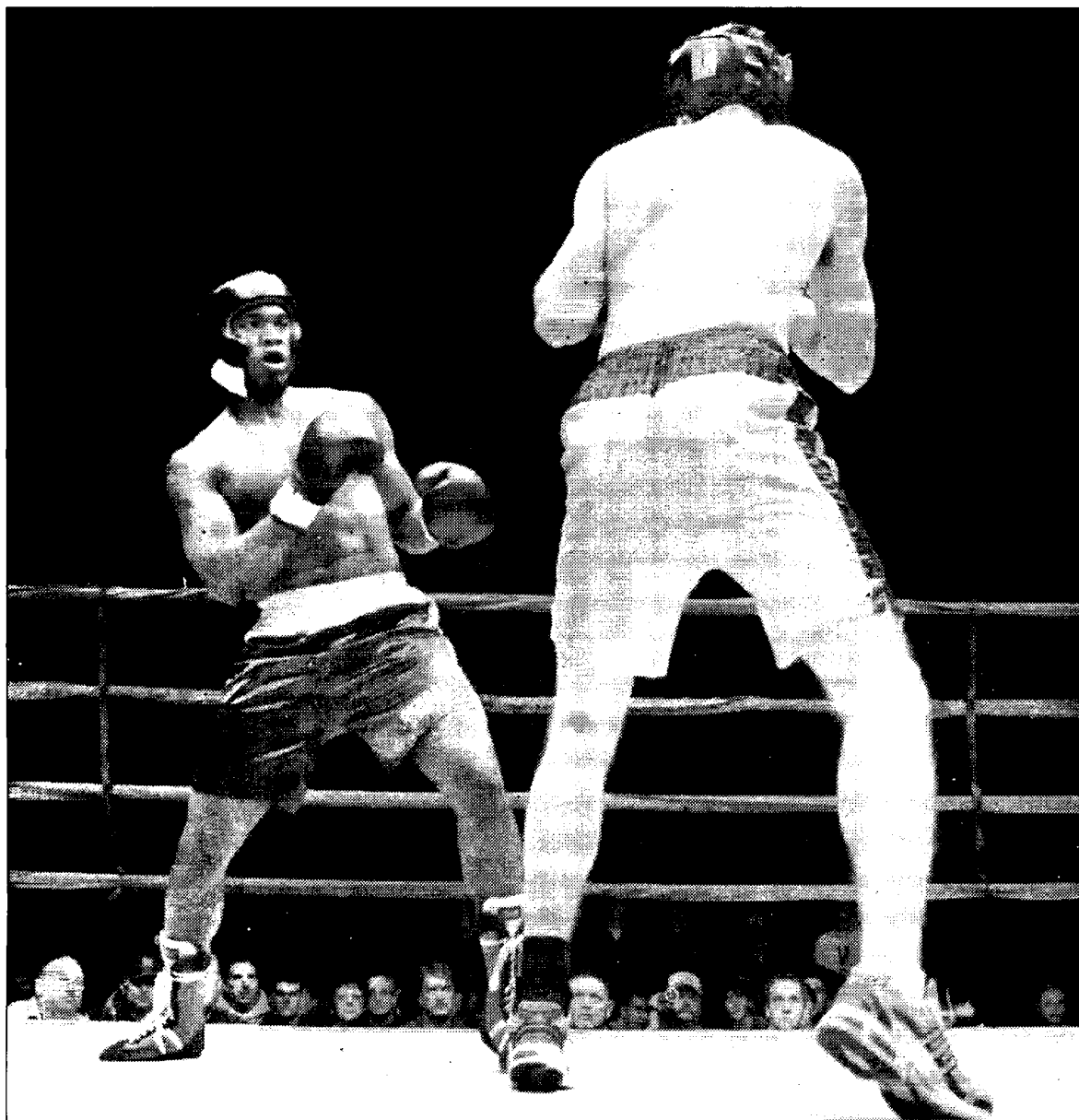
year I went out and I just loved it. I like it so much more than team sports because it's just you, all the responsibility. If you win it's all on you, if you lose it's all on you."

Griffin, a native of Sacramento, California, plans to attend law school next year. But he will take the training experiences and friendships away from his Bengal Bouts experience. The friendships are unique because a Bengal Bouts boxer will find himself in the ring fighting against his friend.

"In the end you have to go out there and fight each other," he said.

What happens afterwards?  
"He's your best friend again."  
Only in Bengal Bouts.

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DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Senior Johnny Griffin, left, dances in the ring Thursday during his semifinal win over sophomore Peter Courtney. Griffin will seek his second Bengal Bouts title Sunday in the finals.

# Long hair earns Stypula No. 2 seed

By DAN MURPHY  
Sports Writer

Before his sophomore year of college, Stu Stypula had never set foot inside of a boxing ring.

But his relentless work ethic — and a little help from a throwback haircut — earned the junior one of six spots as a Bengal Bouts captain this year and the No. 2 seed in the 180-pound weight class.

"[The 2005 captains] said I had been selected because at the time I had long hair and they wanted to reintroduce 'the shag look' into the program captainship," Stypula said.

Stypula is not a stranger to his position. He captained his high school's cross country and lacrosse teams.

He described his leadership role as a "double-edged sword." Stypula said his role as a captain is time-consuming, especially as most of the training sessions are devoted to instructing younger boxers or being a practice partner for others.

The captains have to arrive well before all of the other fighters in order to get in the workouts they need to be physically prepared to compete.

But Stypula believes that in some ways, his new role and the commitment that goes along with it have improved his work ethic and helped him become stronger.

"I have been inspired by a sense of leadership to work harder and be a better boxer than I would be if I wasn't a captain," he said.

If Stu "Beans" has really improved his technique, he is bound to make some noise in the 180-pound division this year. This was the second straight year Stypula earned the No. 2 seed in the tournament.

But he has no intentions of resting on his seeding laurels.

"I hope to be a contender for the division champion," he said.

Stypula had no problems getting through the first round in last year's 180-pound class. He faced off against senior Michael Siefiring and came away with the unanimous decision.

In the next round, "Beans" sparred with Doug "Sudden Death" Bartels. Despite putting up a good fight, Stypula fell to the eventual division champion in the quarterfinal round.

But winning was not his main goal when he joined Bengal Bouts. As a two-sport athlete in high school, Stypula was simply looking for a way to stay in shape while learning a new sport.

"I also wanted to find out if I was as tough of a guy as I thought I was," he said. "I found out that boxing isn't always about being the tougher guy."

Stypula said these words resonate with Bengal Bouts competitors, as their fights are only a small part of the work that the boxers put in towards raising money for the Bangladeshi missions. The fighters organize countless hours of promotion and fund-raising to make the event a financial success.

"The money feeds incredible amounts of people as well as clothing and educating them

and playing salaries for many of the workers over there," he said.

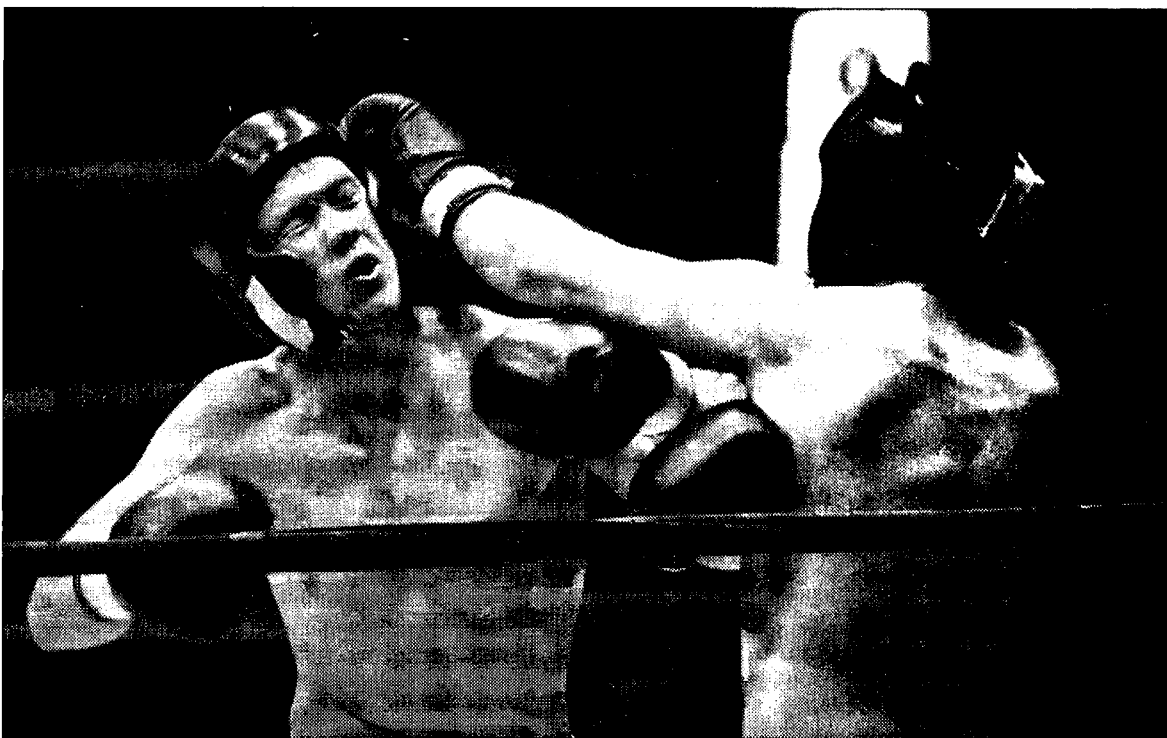
The junior biology major also takes away a great deal of knowledge from the program that he has given so much time and effort.

"Bengal Bouts has definitely prepared me to handle any situation in life through perseverance and hard work," Stypula said. "It has also taught me to

work for a purpose higher than myself."

Stypula said he wants to continue his work as a captain next season, but he is intent on making his mark as a champion this year so he can dedicate even more time to training younger boxers as a senior captain.

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CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Bengal Bouts co-captain Stu Stypula punches Jeff Golen during Thursday's 180-pound semifinal match. Golen won Thursday's match by split decision, ending Stypula's title hopes.

## Disobedient son becomes Bengal Bouts captain

*Andrew McGill's work ethic in the gym earned him title after his sophomore year*

KYLE CASSILY  
Sports Writer

The last words Andrew McGill's father said to his son as he dropped him off for freshman orientation were simple, yet clear: "Don't join Bengal Bouts."

McGill, a native of Erie, Penn., initially intended to heed his father's advice, which came from a desire not to see his son tossed around in the ring. But the now-junior and Bengal Bouts captain has no regrets in disobeying his father.

"I tried to ease into it," McGill said of telling his father he joined the boxing program. "After coming up the first year and seeing me fight, [my parents] saw I could keep up with these guys and not get my nose busted in. They calmed down and enjoyed watching."

McGill first joined the boxing club with no intention of sparring or entering the tournament — he merely saw it as a way to get in shape with several other friends.

But he steadily broke his way into sparring contests and then decided to fight in the annual tournament to raise money for Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh.

"My mom always films the

fight, and in between the rounds she zooms in on my face to see if I'm alright," McGill said of his parents' continued concern.

McGill has done more than avoid a knockout in the ring; he has excelled in the program to become a captain via hard work and a strong ring presence.

As a freshman, McGill made it to the quarterfinals in the 140-pound weight class and last year lost in the semifinals. This year the fighter will compete in the 145-pound weight class — in order to focus more on personal health than the size of his opponents.

"This year I stayed healthy, not losing the weight, and developed my skills," he said. "I'm fighting better than ever."

McGill lost in the semifinals last year in a bout with Mike McCann — a match he describes as the toughest he has faced. McCann hit with force and the post-spring break placement of the fight left McGill in the best of shape.

"The key when you go into that ring is to plan ahead what you want to do," McGill said. "The person who stays with their plan and carries it out, will win. You dictate the pace, you dictate how the fight is fought and you should be victo-



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Andrew McGill, left, celebrates his victory over E. J. Alston in the preliminary round of Bengal Bouts Feb. 21. McGill defeated Chris Hanlon Thursday to advance to the 145-pound finals.

rious."

Another key component for McGill is intense training. The past two years he has spent more than three hours a day in the gym getting in fighting shape and teaching novice boxers the ropes.

McGill said his work ethic was a factor in his selection as captain for this year, and he now works to teach young fighters how to succeed both in the ring and in life with the gloves off.

"You have a 150 guys all

looking up to you, asking you questions, watching you box and trying to learn from you," McGill said. "It's a great honor to be involved with an event of such history, and follow in the long line of tradition."

McGill stresses not only the boxing aspect of the Bengal Bouts, but also the charity work it promotes in Bangladesh with the Holy Cross missions. He said he feels pride in being involved in an organization that helps to better the lives of those suffering in poverty.

"If someone buys a ticket, it feeds a family for a week — from just buying a \$10 ticket," he said. "It's a nice feeling to know that you're disciplining yourself. You're making friends, getting in shape, learning how to box, but at the same time you're being a great benefit to such a great organization as Holy Cross missions."

Not bad at all for a guy who disobeyed his parents.

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# Chasing dreams

*Chris Calderone seeks a Bengal Bouts title to avenge 2005 semifinal loss*

By KYLE CASSILY  
Sports Writer

Chris Calderone knows from experience that to be the best, you have to beat the best.

The junior Bengal Bouts captain and No. 1 seed in the 155-pound weight class has faced a tough draw of opponents in the past and says he is ready to be the top fighter in this year's Bouts.

As a freshman in the 160-pound weight class, Calderone won in the preliminaries, only to drop a tough bout in the quarterfinals to eventual champion Colin Kerrigan.

The next year — his first at 155 — Calderone slugged his way to the semifinals where he faced Bengal Bouts president Galen Loughery. Loughery knocked off Calderone and went on to win the weight class. For the second straight year, Calderone had been handed defeat at the hands of the champion.

"It made it harder because it felt like, 'Wow, I would have won

the whole thing," Calderone said. "I'm not pushing anything but I'm hoping to win the whole thing," he said of his hopes for this year's Bouts.

Calderone's interest in boxing grew out of the lack of another sport at Notre Dame — varsity wrestling. Calderone wrestled for four years in high school and joined the Boxing Club in search of a substitute to the sport.

"I kind of ended up liking boxing better," he said. "I just really liked the sport and the whole Bengal Bouts program was just great.

It's a teamwork thing, but you also get to compete individually too."

Calderone admitted that when he joined Bengal Bouts he did not know much about the charity side of the event. Since then he has learned the value of the Congregation of the Holy Cross' Bangladesh missions.

"After I became a part of [the Boxing Club], it was added incentive to stay with it," he said of the missions that Bengal Bouts funds. "It gives added purpose to it. You're not just boxing for the



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

**Chris Calderone takes a punch from Nathan Dyer in their semifinal bout at the Joyce Center Thursday. Calderone won the match and will face Zachary Jara in the finals Sunday.**

heck of it; your boxing for a great cause."

Calderone said he enjoys the group training aspect of the club, as it gives a sense of teamwork and friendship akin to high school athletic teams.

And now that the former Morrissey resident lives off-campus, Calderone enjoys training

with comrades he doesn't have the ability to see as often.

"You make some great friendships," he said. "Everyone's working together, you're holding mitts for other kids, you're pushing each other."

Now that he is a junior captain, Calderone relishes the opportunity to improve the skills of

underclassmen and be a leader in such a respected program.

"We had some great upper-classmen that taught me as a freshman," he said. "It's probably been the best thing I've done at Notre Dame so far."

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## Basola goes from novice to captain in a few short years

By CHRIS KHOREY  
Sports Writer

When Mark Basola first heard of Notre Dame's charity boxing tournament, he had never fought in his life.

"I heard about [Bengal Bouts] the summer before coming here — from some family friends," the senior said. "[Joining] was really out of character for me. I had never thrown a punch before my freshman year at Notre Dame."

For Basola, who played basketball and swam in high school, the Bengal Bouts novice program served as a way to transition into a totally new sport — one that was much more demanding than anything he had done before. Older boxers and alumni coaches taught him the nuances of the "sweet science" of boxing and helped him through the rigorous training.

Basola said those mentors were crucial in his development as a boxer.

"The novice program was my introduction to boxing," Basola said. "I got to see what the workouts are like. It also got me into some semblance of shape. It's much more physically demanding than basketball in a lot of ways."

Now, Basola is repaying the favor. As Bengal Bouts co-president, he is tutoring young fighters not only to hold their own, but also to excel in the ring.

"A lot of my time with the program is taken getting the novices up to speed," Basola said. "We make sure they talk to us when they need help. They come to us to ask questions so we can build them up and make them better fighters."

Most freshmen start training in the fall, giving older fighters

several months to prepare for the Bouts come March. However, the group does accept a few new members at the start of the spring semester. These fighters come in knowing their training will be even more intense as they race against time to be ready for the Bouts.

"We get a select few who do start doing the program in the spring," Basola said. "They're real novices so we have to work hard to make sure they can participate in the fights and do well."

Training sessions, which can take up 20 hours per week as the tournament nears, are as rigorous, if not more so, than any varsity sport.

"The workouts are very structured," Basola said. "First we do our calisthenics — we call them 'cals.' We do 333 push-ups a day because we want to do a total of 10,000 by the end of the season. Also we do 500 sit ups per day."

"On top of that we do our training and form work, which is where we teach the novices how to fight."

Although the training is intense, Basola said he does not condone excessive weight loss to compete in a certain weight class.

"We try to discourage that as much as possible," he said of fighters "cutting" weight. "We tell them not to do anything crazy."

Besides physical workouts and technical instruction in boxing, the novices receive valuable experience sparring, which is important to overcome the psychological hurdle of climbing into the ring to fight another person.

"You're very alone in boxing," Basola said. "It's you and another guy in the ring and you have to fight with your fists."

As co-president, Basola has



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

**Mark Basola, right, punches Jeffrey Hausfeld in their quarterfinal bout Tuesday. Hausfeld won the fight in a unanimous decision and will face Greg Schaefer in the 160-pound final Sunday.**

many other responsibilities aside from training younger fighters.

"You have to be on top of everything," he said. "You have to work with ... RecSports to do the paperwork for the Bouts, you have to make sure that donations are coming in. You have to get the ads for the programs, which is how we make most of our money. You have to make sure the training is up to speed. You have to make sure that there are EMTs in the pit so we can spar. And you have to make sure the coaches are up to speed so they know what's going on."

Of course, Basola is not alone in organizing the 150-plus member club and 130-plus fighter tournament.

"[Bengal Bouts co-president] Nate Schroeder shouldered almost all of the administrative work," Basola said. "We also have eight captains in the club. They organize the training and work with the novices."

Also working with the program are Bengal Bouts alumni, including law professor Charles Rice, University pilot Pat Ferrell and Tom Suddes, a Notre Dame alum who travels from Ohio every year to help with the Bouts.

"We've got some dinosaurs in the program that come back year in and year out," Basola said.

As for the senior, his four year Bengal Bouts career has seen many ups and downs, culminating in his 160-pound champi-

onship last year.

In his first two years, Basola advanced to the second round but was unable to win more than one match. He said he's improved a lot technically from those early bouts.

"[My freshman year] I was really nervous and really excited," Basola. "I kind of lost control and started throwing punches without thinking."

This year, Basola was upset in the quarterfinals by sophomore Jeff Hausfeld, one of his proteges. Hausfeld defeated Mark Hinken Thursday in their semifinal bout and will take on Greg Schaefer in the finals Sunday at the Joyce Center.

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## DVD REVIEW

### Wobbly 'Domino' lands face first



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Runway model-turned bounty hunter Domino Harvey (Keira Knightley) tracks down ball bond jumpers in director Tony Scott's latest — and worst — outing.

By TAE ANDREWS  
Scene Critic

With a slick preview trailer, "Domino" looked to feature the coolest on-screen bounty hunter appearance since Boba Fett in "The Empire Strikes Back." Well, maybe the coolest bounty hunter not to wear Mandalorian armor.

Although Fett's taciturn performance is a tough act to follow, the presence of Keira Knightley sheer attractiveness at least promised to make up for any mercenary shortcomings. Trading in lipstick for bullet-shell casings, Knightley appeared poised to capture both her wanted quarry and the hearts of teenage males across the country — dead or alive. While she more or less succeeds as a femme fatale, the film as a whole suffers from an awful plot and overly complicated cinematography.

Through a series of poorly-done and very brief flashbacks, the film only offers a glimpse of Domino's childhood. Following the death of her father, young Domino becomes an angst-ridden rebel without a cause. She also takes to randomly whipping around a pair of nunchaku. The pairing of girl-next-door appeal and sweet nunchuk skills combines to make her Napoleon Dynamite's trophy wife.

As an angst-ridden teenager with an Avril Lavigne-like ethos, Domino naturally decides to pursue a career as a fashion model. Tragically, her willingness to engage in fisticuffs on and off the runway proves her inability to assimilate into the world of beautiful people, and she soon opts out.

Escaping from the superficial world of 90210 to a world of 187s and 911s, Domino decides to pursue a career of danger and excitement as a bounty hunter. After chopping off her hair in favor of a tomboy 'do, she completes her transition from Posh Spice to Scary Spice by joining up with Ed (played by Mickey Rourke) and Choco (Edgar Ramirez), a pair of veterans who she hopes will teach her the tricks of the trade.

However, the way the three of them are dressed up, it makes the audience wonder if Domino truly left the world of fashion or merely went on a photo shoot in the desert. Featuring designer jeans, aviator sunglasses and lots of squinty gazes, the trio looks more prepared to shoot a Levi's commercial than draw a bead on any

would-be criminals.

Herein lies the main problem of Domino — the film tries too hard to be cool. Instead of letting it come naturally, it tries to force it. Dressed like wannabe rock stars, Knightley and Co. look like members of the now-defunct band Creed, with performances nearly as strained as Scott Stapp's vocals. Wielding shotguns in lieu of guitars, they are clearly trying to change the rock industry motif to "Sex, drugs, lock 'n load," but fail miserably.

*Once known as the genius behind "Top Gun," Scott is in a tailspin free-fall here nearly as bad as the one that killed Goose.*

Of course, all of the blame for this can be placed squarely on the shoulders of director Tony Scott. Once known as the genius behind "Top Gun," Scott is in a tailspin free-fall nearly as bad as the one that killed Goose.

Using cinematography similar to his last film, "Man on Fire," Scott again elects to use a perpetual motion approach in shooting Domino. This gets old quickly — he can't keep the camera still, always zooming in and out, or flitting around. With this recently developed case of cinematographic ADD and a few artistic montages, Scott clearly has delusions of art-house grandeur.

In reality, shaking the camera only makes the audience want a dose of Dramamine. What all of this proves that "Domino" is a clichéd action film posing as an indie flick.

Some of the more "artistic" montages were designed to show the perspective of being tripped-out on mescaline. In fact, one of the DVD extras is a featurette entitled "Bounty Hunting on Acid: Tony Scott's Visual Style."

The sheer awfulness of this film is enough to make any viewer wonder what mind-altering narcotics Scott was doing when he cooked up this bomb. The only thing this film has going for it is Keira Knightley's hotness factor. Even in all her hip-hugging jeans glory, she is barely enough to save "Domino" from the dreaded land of one-clover ratings.

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## Domino

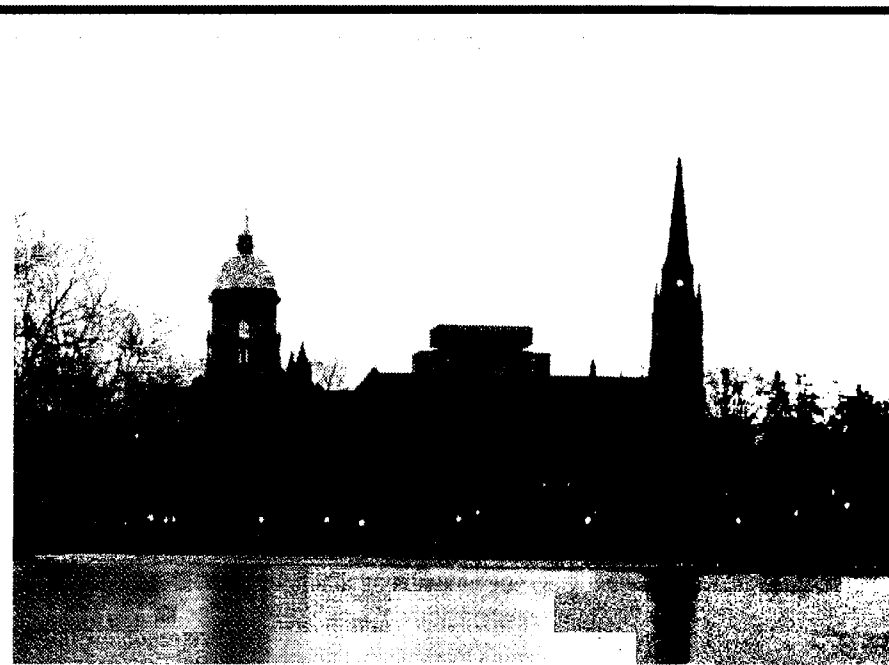
New Line Platinum Series

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## NOTRE DAME'S BEST... *Sunsets*

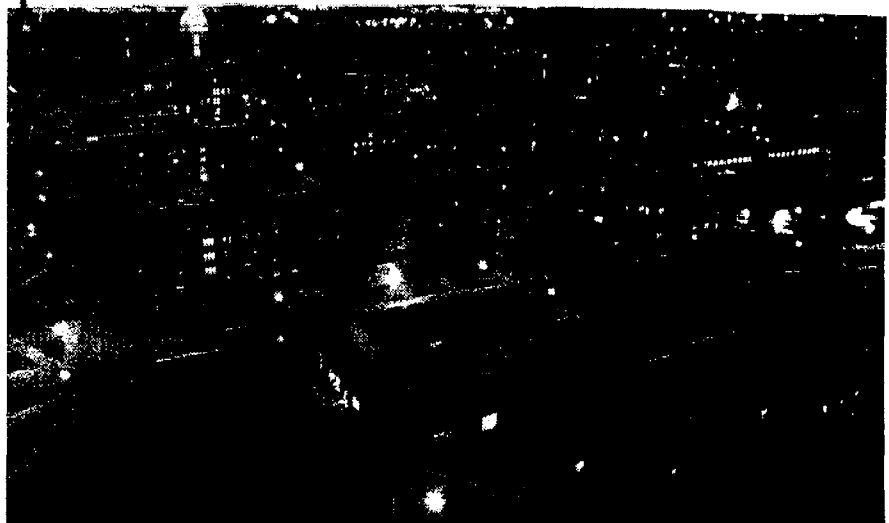
BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF



It's as far from civilization as you can get at Notre Dame — but one look across the water will show you the gleaming face of your golden home.



Peace. Performing Arts. International Studies. Sunset over the Hesburgh Center offers a chance for reflection on these and many other topics.



Pinpoints of light remain as the evening draws to a close; campus hums with activity long after darkness reigns outside.

**For next week:** What are the best fountains on campus?  
Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.

## BENGAL BOUTS — SEMIFINALS

## Perez continues to dominate 132-pound division

By JACK THORNTON and  
TIM KAISER  
Sports Writers

**125: Peter Sarpong vs. Will Marra**

The first bout of the evening played out like a dogfight, as Zahm sophomore Will Marra outlasted off-campus senior Peter Sarpong for a split decision win. To begin the first round, the two fighters shot out of their corners and traded hooks and jabs without any defense. Sarpong was quicker though and gained control of the tempo, but a late hit after the bell most likely cost him.

Sarpong kept up his attack in the second round, pounding Marra with a series of hooks. The sophomore held his own, however, and turned the tide in the third round. An obviously exhausted Sarpong dropped his defenses, allowing Marra to run him around the ropes with a vicious series of hooks. In the end Marra just had more gas in the tank, coming back to defeat Sarpong by split decision.

**125: Nate Serazin vs. Matt Gelchion**

In the next fight, all freshman Matt Gelchion of Fisher Hall needed was 30 seconds and one nasty hook to defeat Seigfried sophomore Nate Serazin. Gelchion dodged a hook from Serazin and came back with a brutal right hook that dropped Serazin to the mat. After giving him a standing-eight count, the ref called the fight.

**132: Chris Izaguirre vs. James "The Beast from the Beach" Carlson**

A clash of styles resulted with Zahm sophomore Chris Izaguirre beating sophomore James "The Beast from the Beach" of Fisher Hall by a split decision. The two came out tentatively in the first round, with neither boxer gaining the advantage. The taller Izaguirre danced around Carlson, using jabs to keep The Beast from getting inside, and finally took control of the match in the second round with a flurry of left-right hooks as the bell sounded.

Carlson strived to get back into the match, but Izaguirre used his speed and size to maintain distance, and got into an effective rhythm of low-high hits. Carlson managed to garner a few points with an effective series of jabs at the end, but it wasn't enough.

**132: John Biddle vs. Kris "El Azteca" Perez**

Kris "El Azteca" Perez, a freshman from Morrissey turned in one of the most dominant per-

formances of the night, taking out Fisher sophomore John Biddle in the second round. Working with his height disadvantage, El Azteca quickly established a pattern of low left jabs to the chest followed by right hooks to the head. Coming from such a low angle, every punch from Perez worked like an uppercut, knocking Biddle off pace.

After falling once and struggling to land punches in the first round, Biddle came out firing in the second, momentarily gaining the advantage. El Azteca snatched it right back though, and dropped his opponent for good 1:30 into the round with a mean left-right combo.

**140: Patrick "Homewrecker" Garrison vs. Lawrence "The Boston Massacre" Sullivan**

Defending the honor of Fisher Hall, Lawrence "The Boston Massacre" Sullivan laid out Keough sophomore Patrick "Homewrecker" Garrison in the second round of their fight. Showing more quickness and agility, Homewrecker gained the early advantage by landing several counter-hooks off misses by the Boston Masacre.

Sullivan wasted no time in the second round setting things right, as a brutal right and left hook forced Garrison into the ropes and earned him a standing eight count. Sullivan then wrested control of the fight as Homewrecker began to lose his speed and Sullivan's bigger punches made contact. Garrison received another standig eight count after a huge right hook from The Boston Massacre, and the ref stopped the fight 1:24 into the second round.

**140: Mike "Soldier" Schmitt vs. Mike "Just Call Me Merck" Hennig.**

Mike "Just Call Me Merck" Henning controlled the match against a determined Mike "Soldier" Schmitt in the fight. Just Call Me Merck came out to win right away, laying a series of brutal left and right hooks that swept across his body. Schmitt tried to keep Henning away with jabs, but Henning was unfazed by his opponent's attack, fighting with a style that can best be described as "downhill."

Soldier lived up to his moniker, however, and kept coming back for more, and even gaining the advantage briefly in the third round. In the end, however, Henning's aggressive style worked as the O'Neill junior won by unanimous decision.

**145: Andrew McGill vs. Chris Hanlon**

Zahm junior Andrew McGill cashed in a dominating per-

formance, defeating O'Neill junior Chris Hanlon by unanimous decision. McGill was far too quick for his opponent, dancing around Hanlon throughout the entire match, and effectively dodging him until the final bell.

While Hanlon struggled to land punches, McGill set up shop, using his speed to get off quick jabs, and then coming across with giant hooks. Hanlon managed to keep McGill away in the third round, but the Zahm junior was too much for him.

**145: Dan Rodgers vs. Tommy "Fightin' for Milk" Forr**

The next fight played out like a roller coaster ride, and Tommy "Fightin' for Milk" Forr overcame Dan Rodgers to win by a unanimous decision. In a fight where defense was secondary, Forr and Rodgers traded the advantage several times in the first round with a plethora of unchecked punches. The two boxers toned it down in the second round, with Fightin' for Milk landing some big left jabs and a huge uppercut to the body.

Forr's guerilla warfare style wore out at the end of the third round, as Rodgers began pummeling his exhausted opponent on the ropes. It wasn't enough though, as the judges gave Fightin' for Milk the win.

**150: John "The Highlighter" O'Connell vs. Brian Tyrrell**

Freshman John O'Connell defeated junior Bryan Tyrrell by unanimous decision. After a quiet first round, Tyrrell landed a big right hook on The Highlighter's face that sparked the match. Tyrrell went into overdrive, pushing his opponent into the rings with a fast series of left-right hooks.

In the third round, the crowd tried to rouse The Highlighter to victory with a "John, John" chant, but Tyrrell connected on another vicious right hook that made the audience gasp before the bell rang, sealing the victory.

**150: Bret "The Mail Never Stops" Shapot vs. Jesse Brawer**

Alumni sophomore Bret "The Mail Never Stops" Shapot defeated Keenan sophomore Jesse Brawer by split decision. Though Brawer held a definitive size advantage, Shapot was able to keep his opponent at bay with fundamentally sound quick jabs and counter-hooks. The two traded several good punches in the third round, but it was a fairly quiet match, with The Mail Never Stops landing more punches and garnering the close win.

**155: Chris Calderone vs. Nathan Dyer**

Chris Calderone won by unani-

mous decision over fellow junior Nathan Dyer. The match began with the two fighters trading jabs, before Calderone opened up with a series of hard hooks — missing a few — but connecting on most. The second round saw more of the same, but the constant punching left the fighters winded by its conclusion. In the third, Calderone continued his onslaught of hooks to Dyer's head and body, and Dyer, missing most of his shots at the aggressive Calderone, was forced to clinch multiple times.

**155: David Weirson vs. Zachary Jara**

The fight between juniors David Weirson and Zachary Jara began with a fairly even first round, with both fighters aggressive and throwing looping hooks from the start, but Weirson scored some quick jabs to the body of Jara near the end of the round. The second round saw both fighters on the canvas, although Weirson fell after getting clocked by a hard right from Jara, while Jara slipped coming out of a clinch. The fight lasted only 58 seconds into the third round, where a few more right hooks from Jara gave him the technical knock out.

**160: Jeffrey "Werewolf of London" Hausfeld vs. Mark Hinken**

Sophomore Jeffrey Hausfeld defeated freshman Mark Hinken in a slugfest which saw little to no defense by either boxer through three rounds. Right from the start, the fighters exchanged jabs and crosses, and Hinken's nose began to bleed after absorbing so much punishment from Hausfeld. The bout's second round was much less frenetic, with both fighters clearly winded from the first, but the two boxers came out strong at the start of the third, with Hausfeld landing hard shots to Hinken's face and body to earn him a unanimous decision.

**160: Alex Duffy vs. Greg Schaefer**

Freshman Alex Duffy dropped a match by unanimous decision to senior Greg Schaefer. The fight began with an even first round, with both boxers throwing sustained combos throughout. The second round saw more flurries of punches, and Schaefer's offensive put Duffy on the mat. In the third the fighters both kept their pace, but Schaefer landed some solid jabs and crosses to ensure his unanimous victory.

**165: Charlie Gough vs. Adam Burns**

Senior Charlie Gough beat junior Adam Burns by split decision,

on the strength of his powerful jab combinations. The two fighters repeated the same sequence over and over throughout the fight. Gough would back Burns up against the ropes and connect on a few shots, then cover up as Burns unleashed hooks and uppercuts. Gough was able to secure the win by landing a few hard jabs to Burns' face in the third round by which the few fighters were exhausted.

**165: Billy Hederman vs. Stephen Hansen**

Law student Billy Hederman won a close fight against junior Stephen Hansen by beating his opponent's ability to fight right out of him. Hansen began the fight by dodging Hederman's punches and throwing counters, but a hard jab to the face from Hederman in the beginning of the second round turned the fight around. By the third, Hansen was throwing hooks, but looked to be on his last legs as Hederman connected with jab combinations.

**170: Brian Nicholson vs. Michael O'Connell**

Law student Brian Nicholson defeated senior Michael O'Connell by using an aggressive strategy and landing punches to O'Connell's head. Nicholson came out swinging with jabs and crosses, but O'Connell blocked most of Nicholson's punches and countered a few. Nicholson began the second round the same way, but this time connected with a number of quick jabs to O'Connell's face, giving him a bloody nose. Nicholson continued his onslaught in the third, knocking out O'Connell's mouth guard and throwing hooks at O'Connell's body.

**170: Andrew Breslin vs. Jeffrey Schaal**

Senior Andrew Breslin beat fellow senior Jeffrey Schaal by split decision in a hard-fought battle of seniors. Schaal began the fight by throwing tight hooks at Breslin's body, which Breslin countered with quick jabs and a few looping hooks. Schaal's style worked to perfection in the second, and he connected with his hooks to the body, but Breslin opened up the third with same hard shots to Schaal's head. Schaal took a standing 8 count, spelling the end of the fight. After their bout was over, the exhausted fighters shared a vigorous hug and received a standing ovation from many members of the crowd.

Contact Jack Thornton at  
jthornt4@nd.edu and  
Tim Kaiser at  
tkaiser@nd.edu

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## MLB

# WBC loses four big names

## Ramirez reports to camp instead of tourney

Associated Press

On the same day Manny Ramirez finally joined his Red Sox teammates, Vladimir Guerrero, Billy Wagner and C.C. Sabathia pulled out of the World Baseball Classic.

Ramirez arrived at spring training Wednesday, six days after Boston's first full-squad workout and one day after Major League Baseball's mandatory reporting date. He was given permission by the team to show up late so he could continue working out near his Miami home.

The enigmatic slugger arrived with his agents and others in a pair of spiffy vehicles: one copper, one silver. He sported dark orange dreadlocks and was on the field for only an hour. And he passed up several chances to say he's pleased to still be with the Red Sox after he asked to be traded following last season.

"I'm here. I'm here," Ramirez said when asked if he's happy to be with Boston.

He hadn't been entertained questions about past trade rumors.

"My main focus," he said, "is getting prepared for the season to help Boston win."

He also confirmed he won't play for the Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic, which begins Thursday night U.S. time in Tokyo when South Korea plays Taiwan. The Dominican Republic's first game is next Tuesday against Venezuela.

"I'm not ready, so I'm not

going to go out there and make a fool of myself," he said.

Ramirez isn't expected to play in Thursday night's exhibition opener against Minnesota, but Boston manager Terry Francona didn't expect him to be out of the lineup for long.

"I'm fine. I'm fine," Ramirez said. "I guess a lot of people want me to be back and that's why I'm here."

Guerrero pulled out of the WBC, saying he will not play for the Dominican team because of the deaths of his three cousins last weekend in a car accident.

"I feel mentally that I cannot go out there and play to the level and compete for my country," Guerrero said through a translator at Los Angeles Angels camp in Tempe, Ariz.

Wagner and Sabathia dropped off the United States team and were replaced by Washington right-hander Gary Majewski and Yankees left-hander Al Leiter.

Wagner, the All-Star closer who signed a \$43 million, four-year contract with the New York Mets during the offseason, said he needed more time to get his arm in shape.

"I just didn't feel like I was ready yet," the hard-throwing lefty said in Port St. Lucie, Fla. "I want to do what's right for me and my country, and I'm not a very good pitcher in March. I didn't want to hurt the (WBC) team."

Sabathia also said he would-

n't be ready to pitch in the WBC and he doesn't want to risk an injury that could cost his Cleveland Indians. His withdrawal leaves the U.S. team with only three starters on its 14-man pitching staff: Jake Peavy, Dontrelle Willis and Roger Clemens.

Also in Port St. Lucie, Bret Boone retired at Mets camp, the culmination of a swift decline for a player who was one of baseball's best second basemen only a few years ago.

"This really gives me some closure," Boone said, his eyes moist at a morning news conference. "I went out this winter and worked as hard as I could, and it would have been easy to walk away after last year."

Boone's production plummeted dramatically since the 2003 season. The three-time All-Star was cut by Seattle and Minnesota last year, when he batted .221 with seven homers and 37 RBIs in 326 plate appearances.

The 36-year-old Boone agreed to a minor league contract with the Mets in January and came to spring training with an opportunity to win the starting second base job. But the four-time Gold Glove winner called it quits before New York even played its first exhibition game.

"Physically, I think I can still do it. It wasn't as easy as even three or four years ago, but I had lost the edge. I couldn't look in the mirror and think that I would get that edge back," he said.

## PGA

# Tiger stays in front at Ford Championship

## Woods has lead over Mickelson after eight under performance

Associated Press

MIAMI — Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson resumed their duel at opposite ends of Doral on Thursday, and the outcome didn't change.

Woods was still one shot better.

In a balmy start to the Florida swing, Woods again reached the 603-yard 12th hole in two shots and ran off a string of birdies along the back nine of the Blue Monster for an 8-under 64 and a one-shot lead over Mickelson and four others in the Ford Championship at Doral.

"This guy Tiger seems to play well every day, every week," Mickelson said. "I'm just trying to keep pace. I'm trying to maybe have another shot at dueling out with

him on Sunday, and I'm glad that he's playing well. I've got to do my part and stay with him."

Woods won last year in a scintillating showdown between golf's two biggest personalities, with Woods pulling ahead on a 30-foot birdie putt at No. 17 and Mickelson lipping out a birdie chip on the last hole.

They teed off at the same time Thursday, but on opposite nines.

They were together only on the leaderboard, although both had some catching up to do on a day when 60 players broke 70 and 116 players were at par or better.

"The times I looked at the board, neither one of us were up there," Woods said. "We weren't leading. I knew 7 (under) was leading, so try to get up there somehow."

Woods got off to a hot start on a tropical afternoon with birdies on three of his first four holes, including a tee shot within a foot on the 222-yard fourth hole. Mickelson made three straight birdies around the turn, and while his gallery was about one-fourth the size of those watching Woods, they were as passionate

as ever.

There were throaty cheers when Lefty made a 12-foot birdie putt on No. 5, and one man yelled, "Yeah! He's letting Tiger know that he's coming!"

At that point, Woods was only about 250 yards away as he walked down the 14th fairway. He hit 9-iron into 10 feet, the start of three straight birdies that shot him to the top of the leaderboard. His 64 was his best score in the first round on the PGA Tour since a 63 in the 2003 Western Open, which he went on to win by five.

It was sizzling stuff, even though it was only Thursday.

There are still three days left, and loads of other players capable of denying fans an encore.

C a m i l o Villegas, one of several promising rookies who hit the ball a mile, birdied four straight holes until settling for a two-putt par from about 8 feet on the 18th. That put him at 65,

along with former PGA champion Rich Beem, Ryan Palmer and Mark Wilson, one of five players who got into this elite field with a top-10 finish in Tucson last week.

At times, it seemed like a replay from last year.

Woods had 282 yards to the hole on the monster 12th hole, and hammered a 3-wood that floated enough in the air to clear the bunker and reach the green. This time, he had to settle for a two-putt birdie, bouncing on his feet as the ball trickled to a stop inches from the front of the cup.

Then there was Mickelson, facing a 30-foot birdie chip after having to lay up on the par-5 eighth. The ball ran hot toward the hole, spun out of the cup and Lefty threw his head back in disbelief.

The good news for Mickelson? It's only Thursday.

And with a mild breeze in the afternoon and soft conditions, no one could afford to take their foot off the gas if they wanted to keep their positions.

"If you shoot even par, you're going to get run over here," Woods said.

**Tiger Woods**  
golfer

*"I knew 7 was leading, so try to get up there somehow."*

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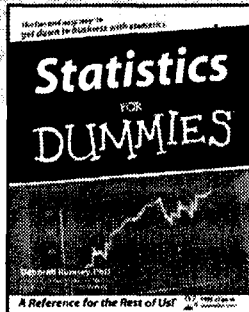
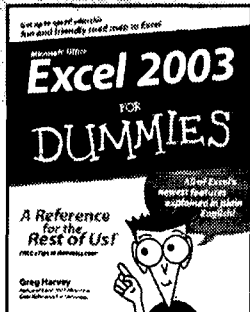
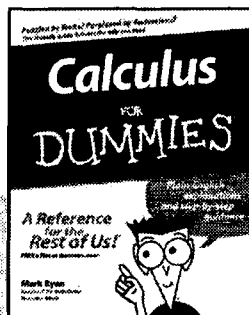
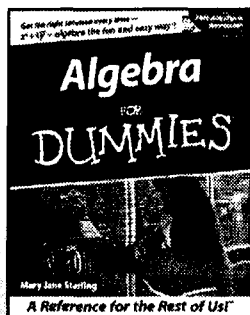
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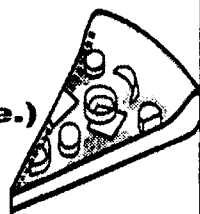
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## NBA

# Cleveland comes back on Murray's late three

*Cavaliers sneak by Bulls with buzzer beater in Chicago*

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Ronald Murray made a 3-pointer from the right side with 3.9 seconds remaining, and the Cleveland Cavaliers escaped with a 92-91 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night after blowing a 25-point lead.

Murray, acquired from Seattle at the trade deadline, scored 11 of his 13 points in the fourth quarter as the Cavaliers snapped a five-game losing streak.

The winning shot came after Kirk Hinrich's free throw gave the Bulls a 91-89 lead with 11.6 seconds left. The Bulls had one final shot to win it, but Andres Nocioni missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Down 10, the Bulls scored 11 straight points midway through the fourth quarter, tying it at 81 on Hinrich's 3-pointer and taking a one-point lead on Ben Gordon's free throw with 3:01 left.

LeBron James, who averaged 34.5 points in the first two games against the Bulls, scored 33 — none in the final 7:40. He had 19 at halftime, matching his total the previous night in a loss to Sacramento.

With forward Drew Gooden out with flu-like symptoms, second-year pro Anderson Varejao got the first start of his career and responded with 13 points and six rebounds. But he missed two free throws with 18 seconds left and the Cavaliers down 88-87.

Eric Snow added 14 points and eight assists.

Hinrich had 25 points and nine rebounds, two nights after he had 30 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists in a 111-100 victory over

Minnesota.

Luol Deng finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Gordon scored 16.

Down 75-60, the Bulls started the fourth quarter with an 11-2 run to make it 77-71.

With the score 81-71, Nocioni's basket started the 11-point run that gave the Bulls their first lead of the game. Murray stopped it with two foul shots, and the lead went back and forth.

Gordon's floater gave the Bulls an 88-87 lead with 39 seconds left and Deng hit two free throws to make it a three-point game with 16 remaining. After Murray scored on a drive, the Cavaliers fouled Hinrich with 11.6 seconds left.

Bulls forward Malik Allen was back in the starting lineup after being taken to a hospital with a sprained neck during the Minnesota game and scored four points in 17 minutes. And Chris Duhon played 17 minutes after leaving that game with a bruised jaw.

Allen said doctors told him he would probably miss a game, but he felt fine after he warmed up during the morning shootaround.

His range of motion is "a ton better" than it was on Wednesday.

Allen injured his neck when he rotated to defend the Timberwolves' Rashad McCants on a drive to the basket early in the second quarter. As he fell backward, his head hit teammate Darius Songaila's leg. Allen was immobilized and carted off on a stretcher.

A few minutes later, Duhon took a shot to the face when he tried to take a charge against Minnesota's Justin Reed and was done for the night.

Duhon was already sore after taking an elbow to the jaw from Gordon in practice on Monday.

## BENGAL BOUTS — SEMIFINALS

# Ward looks to defend title

By TIM KAISER  
Sports Writer

## 180: Dan "Poundtown" Ward vs. Robert Lochridge

Junior Daniel Ward defeated senior Robert Lochridge by unanimous decision. The first round was uneventful, with almost no punches landed, as both boxers dodged each other's shots and clinched before any damage could be done. The two fighters continued their emphasis on defense in the second, blocking while landing body shots, before Ward landed a few shots to Lochridge's head at the end of the round. Ward also won the third on the strength of a particularly hard jab to the face of Lochridge.

## 180: Daniel Stypula vs. Jeffrey Golen

Junior captain Daniel Stypula dropped a close match to senior Jeffery Golen by split decision. The first round was back and forth, but Golen landed a few more body shots on Stypula. The second and third rounds were back and forth again, but Golen got the upper hand by countering some of Stypula's shots and landing some solid punches of his own to get the win.

## Cruiser Weight: Johnny Griffin vs. Peter Courtney

Senior Johnny Griffin turned in a dominant performance in his win by unanimous decision over sophomore Peter Courtney. Griffin opened with an incredible flurry of punches, and Courtney stood for an eight count just seconds into the

match. Griffin spent the rest of the first dodging punches and landing hooks to the body and uppercuts to Griffin's stomach. The fight was stopped early in the second after Griffin knocked Courtney down with one of his furious punch combinations.

## Cruiser Weight: Patrick K. Ryan vs. Christopher Adams

Sophomore Patrick K. Ryan beat senior Christopher Adams by split decision in a close fight that was decided in the final round. The two fighters each landed body shots and peppered each other's faces with jabs throughout the first two rounds, but Ryan was able to counter-punch his way to victory in the third, as the two exhausted fighters struggled to stay on their feet.

## Heavyweight: Nathan Schroeder vs. Patrick McInerney

Senior Nathan Schroeder defeated sophomore Patrick McInerney by split decision, as the captain Schroeder put his experience to good use. McInerney had a huge height and reach advantage, but Schroeder began with a quick combo to McInerney's face that resulted in a standing eight count, of which there were two for McInerney in the first round. Schroeder continued to throw hooks to McInerney's face and head, and while McInerney got in a few hard shots of his own in the later rounds, it was not enough to overcome Schroeder's impressive start.

## Heavyweight: Clarence Ervin

## III vs. John Bush

Senior Clarence Ervin III lost a close match to junior John Bush by unanimous decision. Bush had a huge advantage in reach over Ervin, and while Ervin was able to pepper Bush's head with hard jab combinations throughout the fight, Bush was able to land more shots on the shorter Ervin and come away with the victory.

## Super Heavyweight: Tony Cunningham vs. Eric Delaporte


Junior Tony Cunningham beat much older and taller Law student Eric Delaporte by unanimous decision in the first Super Heavyweight bout of the evening. Cunningham was able to fight Delaporte against the ropes in the first, but Delaporte was able to connect on some thunderous shots. Cunningham hit the canvas in the second, but was able to come back in the third with a powerful punch that knocked Delaporte's headgear off.

## Super Heavyweight: Brian Koenan vs. James Bent

Brian Koenan defeated James Bent by split decision in a very close match, the last of the night. Both fighters were surprisingly agile and while each landed powerful shots, they were able to dodge out of the way of most of the damage. The two fighters appeared even throughout the fight, but Koenan connected with a few combinations in the third round to get the victory.

Contact Tim Kaiser at  
tkaiser@nd.edu

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# AROUND THE NATION

Friday, March 3, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

## NCAA Men's Basketball AP Top 25

	team	record	pts.
1	Duke	27-1	1791
2	Connecticut	25-2	1725
3	Memphis	26-2	1628
4	Villanova	22-3	1605
5	Gonzaga	24-3	1508
6	Texas	24-4	1399
7	George Washington	24-1	1378
8	Pittsburgh	21-4	1236
9	Ohio State	21-4	1209
10	Illinois	23-5	1116
11	Tennessee	20-5	976
12	Boston College	22-6	971
13	North Carolina	19-6	814
14	Washington	22-5	804
15	UCLA	22-6	717
16	West Virginia	19-8	661
17	Florida	22-6	628
18	Kansas	20-7	514
19	Oklahoma	19-6	502
20	Georgetown	19-7	480
21	LSU	20-7	426
22	North Carolina State	21-7	385
23	Iowa	20-8	234
24	Nevada	22-5	193
25	Michigan State	19-9	178

## NCAA Women's Basketball AP Top 25

	team	record	pts.
1	North Carolina	26-1	1150
2	Duke	25-2	1072
3	LSU	25-2	1064
4	Maryland	26-3	1004
5	Ohio State	25-2	949
6	Rutgers	23-3	913
7	Connecticut	26-3	877
8	Tennessee	25-4	827
9	Oklahoma	25-4	824
10	Baylor	21-5	715
11	Arizona State	23-5	641
12	Georgia	20-7	624
13	Stanford	21-6	589
14	Purdue	22-5	559
15	DePaul	23-5	555
16	Michigan State	27-8	470
17	Utah	20-5	285
18	BYU	22-3	264
19	Louisiana Tech	21-4	258
20	Minnesota	19-8	243
21	New Mexico	20-7	178
22	Temple	21-7	171
23	Florida	20-7	133
24	Vanderbilt	19-9	133
25	Texas A&M	21-7	112

## Big East Men's Basketball

	team	conf.	ovr.
1	Connecticut	13-2	26-2
2	Villanova	13-2	23-3
3	West Virginia	11-4	20-8
4	Georgetown	10-5	19-7
5	Pittsburgh	10-5	21-5
6	Marquette	9-6	19-9
7	Seton Hall	8-7	17-10
8	Syracuse	7-7	19-9
9	Cincinnati	7-8	18-11
10	Rutgers	6-9	16-12
11	Louisville	6-9	18-10
12	NOTRE DAME	5-10	14-12
13	Providence	5-10	12-14
14	St. John's	5-10	12-14
15	DePaul	4-10	11-14
16	USF	0-15	6-22

## around the dial

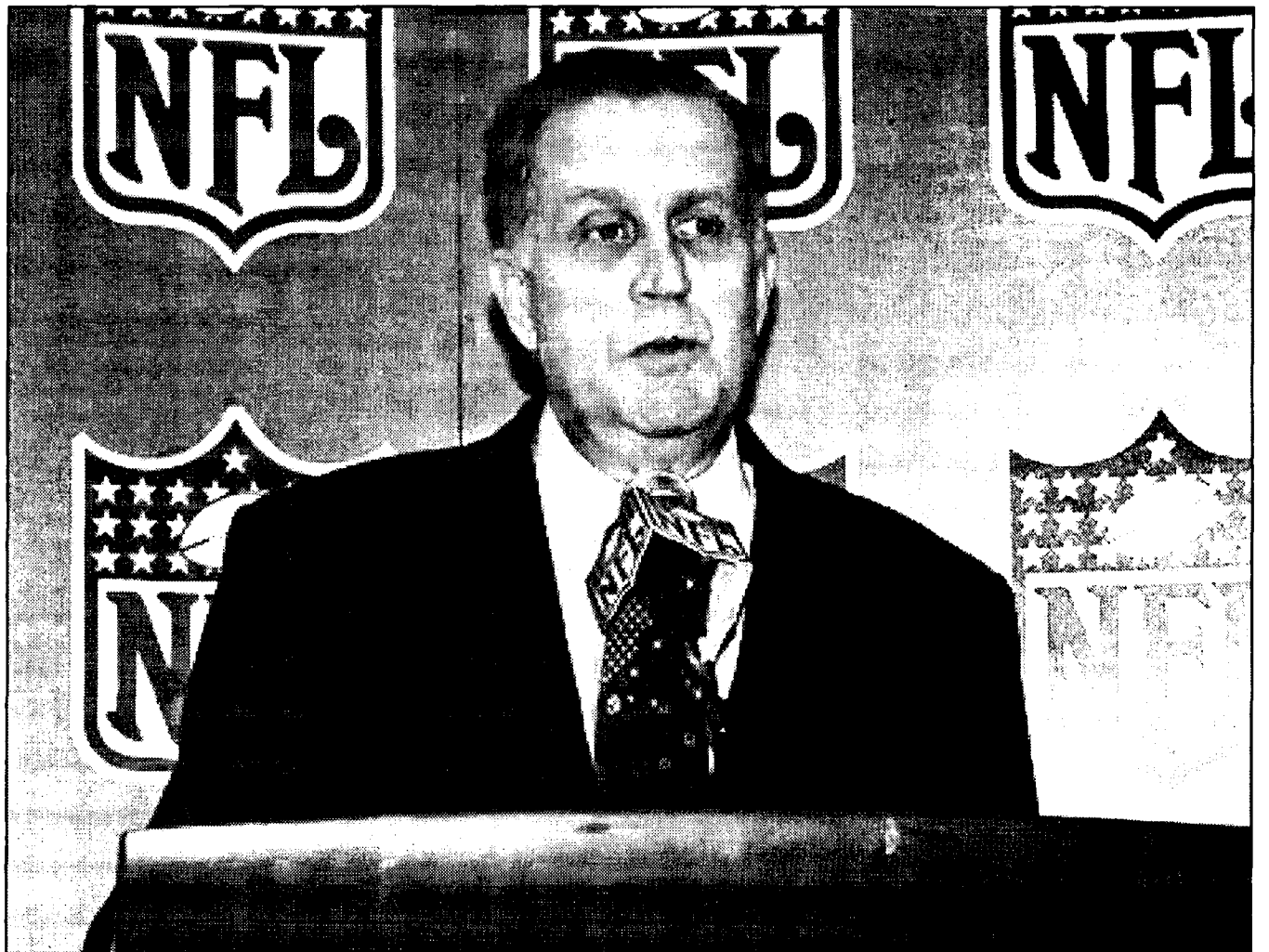
### NBA

Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. ESPN  
LA Clippers at Utah, 9 p.m. ESPN

### GOLF

Ford Championship at Doral  
3 p.m. USA

## NFL



NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue speaks during a news conference following a meeting with NFL owners at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Thursday in New York. NFL owners voted unanimously to extend the free agency deadline.

## Owners extend free agency deadline

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL delayed the start of the free-agent signing period by three days Thursday, seven hours after the owners had seemed to end all hope for a labor contract extension.

The move came just as a number of teams far over the salary cap were about to dump high-paid veterans. It provides a cooling off period for the league and the NFL Players Association to reach a deal and keep those cuts under control.

A bizarre day of twists and turns began when the owners took just 57 min-

utes to rubber stamp a recommendation by their labor committee to turn down the union's final offer—a meeting so short that many people who expected a long session showed up after owners had already left.

"The situation is as dire as dire can be," commissioner Paul Tagliabue said after owners and team officials raced for flights that had taken them thousands of miles for a meeting of less than an hour.

Seven hours later, it wasn't quite as dire, although league officials cautioned that nothing had been done.

Still, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello noted in a state-

ment that the union had agreed to push back the free-agency deadline "to provide time to resume negotiations."

That is an indication that despite the rhetoric, contact continues between Tagliabue and union head Gene Upshaw, who have always had a close relationship. The union is asking for 60 percent of the league's total revenues to go to the players, the NFL is offering 56.2 percent.

The extension puts off free agency for a class led by two running backs: NFL MVP Shaun Alexander of Seattle and Edgerrin James of Indianapolis.

There are two years left on the labor agreement first signed in 1993 and extended continually before the deadline.

But unless there is an agreement, there will be no salary cap in 2007, which could create big-spending "haves" and low-revenue "have-nots," a situation that has prevailed in other sports such as baseball. That also has traps for teams and players: a player would be eligible for free agency only after six years instead of the current four; there would be no salary minimum, and annual raises would be limited to 30 percent.

## IN BRIEF

### Reds pitching coach has cancer, stays with team

SARASOTA, Fla. — Cincinnati Reds pitching coach Vern Ruhle has cancer, but plans to stay with the team while getting treatment.

The 55-year-old Ruhle informed Reds players on Thursday morning, then accompanied the team to Lakeland for its spring training opener, an 8-5 loss to the Detroit Tigers. He didn't disclose the type of cancer he has, but said doctors expect him to make a full recovery.

"My doctors feel that they've caught it at an early stage and it is very treatable," Ruhle said in a statement. "I plan to maintain a presence in spring training, but there will be times when I am away from the team for a few days as I receive treatment."

Ruhle declined to comment beyond his statement.

The cancer was detected by a blood test given to players and

coaches as part of spring training physicals. Ruhle lives in Sarasota and will be treated by doctors in the area.

### Francoeur hopes to remain successful in Braves lineup

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — In less than a year, Jeff Francoeur has gone from having 335 at-bats at Double-A Mississippi to being a possible starting outfielder for the United States in the World Baseball Classic.

That's just a typical leap for the precocious Francoeur.

After Francoeur made his major league debut with the Atlanta Braves on July 7 last season, he played as if determined to show he should have spent the full year in Atlanta.

He was hitting .413 at the end of July and was still around .350 in late August when his smiling face was featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated. By early September he was tied for the National League lead in outfield assists. After the season,

he was third in rookie of the year voting.

### McNair to remain a Titan for one more season

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans decided Thursday to pay a \$1 million fee that will keep quarterback Steve McNair with the team this season but allow him to become a free agent after 2006.

The move means the Titans won't have to pay a \$50 million option that would have extended McNair's contract through 2009, the quarterback's agent said Thursday. Still, McNair will take up more than a quarter of the team's salary cap space.

The future of the NFL's 2003 co-MVP had been in doubt with the Titans facing pressure to get under the cap by Thursday.

"What this amounts to is they decided to pay \$1 million and not add three years to his contract, so this is his last year. At the end of this



## ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

# Irish confidence high entering Sunday's match

*After gaining a No. 5 national ranking, team is ready to take on Illinois*

By DAN TAPETILLO  
Sports Writer

Equipped with the new-found sense of confidence that comes with being a top 5 team, the No. 5 Irish are anticipating Sunday's 11 a.m. home contest against No. 49 Illinois.

"We are hoping for a great match and to continue playing great in doubles and singles," Irish junior Catrina Thompson said. "Everyone has been really focused in practice and being in the top five has really given the team a new sense of confidence."

Last weekend, the Irish (10-0) defeated No. 51 Wisconsin 6-1 on Saturday and shutout No. 27 Indiana Sunday, extending their 11-match home winning streak.

Especially heartening, both victories claimed the doubles point — giving the team confidence as it headed into singles. The Irish are now 10-for-10 in earning the coveted doubles

point this season.

The Irish are the only program in the nation to post three ranked teams. The No. 2 pairing of Catrina and Christian Thompson have led the Irish at No. 1 for most of the season and are 8-1 this season. Following at No. 2 is the No. 29 twosome of sophomore Brook Buck and freshman Kelcy Tefft. The No. 49 duo of seniors Kiki Stastny and captain Lauren Connelly are the No. 3 doubles pairing for the Irish.

"Getting the doubles point is really important for a team mentally," Notre Dame sophomore Bailey Louderback said.

"I think it is what has really helped to give us momentum going into the singles matches. There is a lot less pressure when you only need to get three of the

six singles matches to win." Louderback said she is looking for similar impressive performances all the way down the lineup this week, as Illinois will not be a pushover.

*"Being in the top five has really given the team a new sense of confidence."*

**Catrina Thompson**  
Irish player



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

**Irish sophomore Bailey Louderback winds up for a serve during a 7-0 victory over Indiana Feb. 28. Notre Dame welcomes Illinois to the Eck Tennis Pavillion this Sunday at 11 a.m.**

Illinois' season has been punctuated with both success and failure. After beginning the season with a winning record, the Illini have dropped their last four matches. Last weekend, the Illini dropped a 6-1 decision to No. 32 Purdue.

Despite an impressive 6-7, 6-3, 1-0 (3) win from sophomore Macall Harkins over the Boilermakers' nationally ranked Hala Sufi at No. 1, Purdue proved to be too strong for Illinois.

"Illinois has struggled a little

this year," Thompson said. "But they have a competitive team so we won't be underestimating them."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at  
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## NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Spartans return to winning ways against No. 25 Badgers

*Davis scores 27 and grabs nine rebounds to lead Michigan State*

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State coach Tom Izzo was on Paul Davis all week to be aggressive going to the basket and play big in the middle.

It looks like the senior center was listening.

Davis controlled the paint, scoring 27 points and grabbing nine rebounds to lead Michigan State (No. 23 ESPN/USA Today; No. 25 AP) to a 74-65 victory over Wisconsin (No. 25 ESPN/USA Today; unranked AP) on Thursday night.

"You hate saying coach is always right, but there's no question that changes my game and my mentality," Davis said. "The biggest thing was to post strong and get to the foul line more often."

In his next-to-last home game, Davis was 9-for-12 from the field and 9-for-10 at the line for Michigan State, which had lost two in a row and four of five to fall out of the race for the Big Ten title.

Maurice Ager had 19 points despite being in foul trouble for much of the game and Shannon Brown scored 18 for the Spartans (20-9, 8-7), who reached 20 wins for the seventh time in nine years.

"If you're always going 11-0 or 12-0 in the preseason, you can get 20 wins easier," Izzo said. "If you're playing other people, it's a lot more difficult

to do that. I'm proud that we did it the hard way. When you do that, your kids get mentally tougher."

Michigan State improved to 37-11 in games played in March over the last eight years. With a home win over Illinois on Saturday, the Spartans would lock up a first-round bye in next week's Big Ten tournament.

"It's just like being in the [NCAA] Tournament now," said Brown, who took three midterm exams Thursday, then drew praise from Izzo for his defense despite a case of leg cramps. "It feels like one-and-done time. And we have to play that way for 40 minutes."

Alando Tucker scored 23 points but was the only player

in double figures for the Badgers (19-9, 9-6), who had won four of the previous five and had faint hopes at a share of the league title. But those hopes were dashed on Thursday.

Badgers guard Kamron Taylor came into the game averaging 15 points, but scored just nine on 4-for-18 shooting.

Wisconsin led 23-13 midway through the first half before Michigan State got going. A 7-0 spurt late in the first half helped the Spartans go up 35-31 at the break.

Davis had 12 points and Brown had 10 in the first 20 minutes, when the Badgers were just 2-for-6 at the line.

Brown's alley-oop slam and

fadeaway 3-pointer jump-started a run early in the second half. The Spartans led 48-36 before Tucker, the Big Ten's leading scorer, took charge with 19 second-half points.

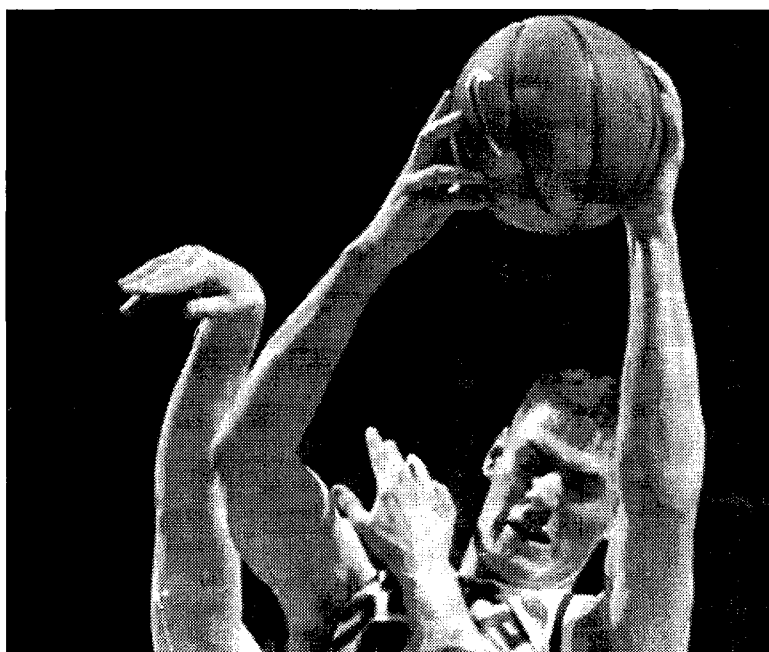
But Tucker missed two free throws that would have cut the deficit to 59-57, and Ager answered with 12 points in a span of 2:22 before fouling out with 1:01 left.

"I felt I had to do something like that," Ager said. "I sat out for a long time and had to make up for it somehow. I had

to take over the game and help Paul out."

Michigan State shot 58 percent in the second half and 51 percent for the game, improving to 13-1 when they shoot at least 50 percent.

"That's the ball game right in there, that stretch from the 5-minute to the 2-minute mark," Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan said. "We get a couple of free throws that don't get in. It's a couple-of-possession game there, and that's where you'd like to keep it."



AP  
**Michigan State's Paul Davis grabs one of his nine rebounds in Thursday's 74-65 victory at home over Wisconsin.**

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## ND TRACK AND FIELD

# Irish host Alex Wilson Invite

## NCAA spots are up for grabs this weekend

By JASON GALVAN  
Sports Writer

The Irish are set to compete this weekend at the Alex Wilson Invitational at the Loftus Sports Center today at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.

The Invitational is the last opportunity for athletes to qualify for nationals and — with this in mind — those close to making the cut are looking to take their performance up a notch.

The Notre Dame men and women are coming off an outstanding performance at the Big East Championships, where the men earned an unprecedented 11th straight finish among the top three and the women earned the first place trophy.

Now, the athletes from both squads are looking forward to earning spots to compete in the NCAA championships March 10 and 11 in Fayetteville, Ark.

"I just need to focus ... see

if I can up my heights and try to make it to nationals," Irish freshman pole vaulter Mary Saxer said. "If not, it's not the end of the world, but it would be great if I did."

Surprisingly, Saxer may not make the cut despite an outstanding season which saw her take second place at the Big East meet and break a school record by clearing a height of 4.05 meters at the Notre Dame Invitational in January. For her to make the NCAA meet, Saxer must take her performance a step further and break the school record she set a little over a month ago.

Others looking to tune up before the national competition include junior All-American Kurt Benninger. Benninger was unable to compete at the Big East meet two weeks ago after suffering through a nagging Achilles tendon injury that has hampered him all season. However, Benninger insists he is feeling fine and ready to

compete this weekend.

"I'm really excited to go out there and race again," Benninger said. "I want to see where I'm at ... take some of the rust off and get ready for [the] NCAA's, which is the big goal."

Benninger has only been able to compete at two meets this indoor season. However, he made the most of his chances. At the Notre Dame Invitational, he ran his second sub-four minute mile and placed first at the meet.

The junior will not be competing in the mile this weekend. He will instead run as part of Notre Dame's distance medley relay team.

"We're pretty confident we can qualify in this event and we're hoping to go out and accomplish something," Benninger said.

Junior Thomas Chamney, who will compete in the meet's signature Alex Wilson 800 meter run, is coming off an impressive performance at the Big East meet. Thomas took home first place in the event with a time of 1:48.62 — provisionally qualifying him for the NCAA meet.

Contact Jason Galvan at  
jgalvan@nd.edu

*"We're hoping to go out and accomplish something."*

**Kurt Benninger**  
Irish runner

## MEN'S SWIMMING



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

The Irish celebrate after a Jan. 21 victory over Cleveland State in Rofls Aquatic Center.

## Last chance meet will take place at Purdue

*Three ND swimmers attempt to qualify for the NCAA meet*

"The meet is all about the individual," Freeman said. "In my case I'm trying to experiment with more sprinting and get away from my mid-distance races."

Freeman, a candidate to qualify for the NCAA meet as a member of Notre Dame's 800 freestyle relay team, will compete in the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke instead of the 200 versions of those events.

"My best time in the 100 free is about 48.5," Freeman said. "This can be faster considering I am usually going this fast in the first 100 meters of the 200. It will be nice just being able to go all out and not have to worry about finishing another 200."

Fanslau plans to compete in the 200 freestyle and 100 fly. "You never know if you'll end up competing in a different [race] next year," he said. "The 200 freestyle may be a possibility for me."

MacKay will compete in the 100 backstroke as opposed to his usual 200.

"Preparation hasn't really been that different," Fanslau said. "We rested a lot for the Big East meet. We've just been having a lot of fun this week."

Freeman said the competition at the meet will be fierce.

"I'm sure there will be some fast swims because it is a last chance meet and people want to get their [nationals qualifying] times," Freeman said.

The final chance meet is taking place two weeks after the Irish defeated second place Pittsburgh by 224.5 points to capture their second consecutive Big East Championship Feb. 18.

Besides Freeman, other Irish swimmers with a chance at competing in the NCAA Championships March 23 in Atlanta include Tim Randolph in the 100 breaststroke and Jay Vandenberg in the 1,650 freestyle.

Contact Chris Hine at  
chine@nd.edu

By CHRIS HINE  
Sports Writer

The Big East Champion Irish will send three competitors to Purdue this weekend for the Last Chance Meet.

Event coordinator David Fraseur said the meet is an opportunity for athletes to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

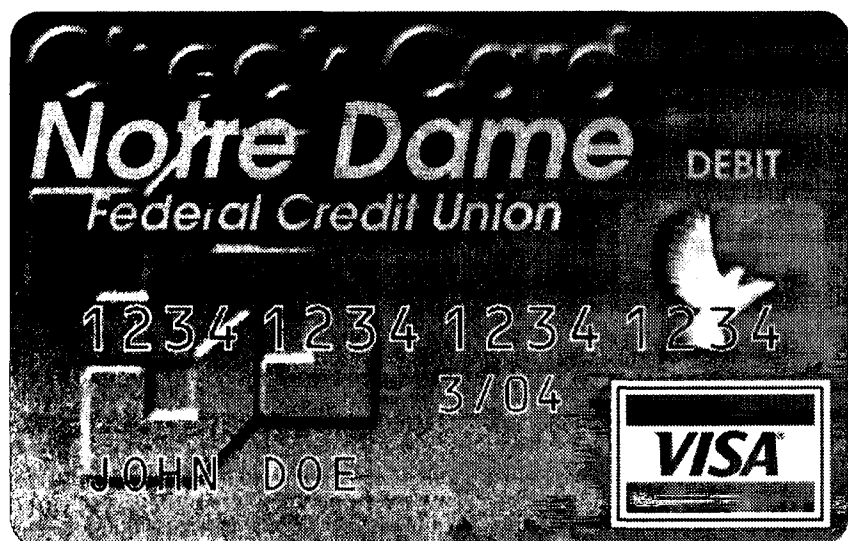
Juniors Brian Freeman, Nick Fanslau and Drew MacKay will represent the Irish in West Lafayette.

The meet is also an opportunity for swimmers to try their hand at events different from those they normally swim.

*"The meet is all about the individual."*

**Brian Freeman**  
Irish swimmer

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## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

## No. 17 Notre Dame defeats Ohio U. 18-6



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer  
Irish defense Katie Kileen moves upfield during an 18-6 win over Ohio Thursday at the Loftus Center.

## ND explodes for 10 second half goals to put away Bobcats

By CHRIS WILLIAMS  
Sports Writer

Coming into the game ranked 17th in the country, the Irish proved to the women's lacrosse world that their stellar start to the season is no fluke in beating Ohio 18-6.

In a physical and emotionally charged game, the Irish and Bobcats committed a combined 74 fouls. Notre Dame netted 10 goals in the second half.

Under the leadership of senior captains Crysti Foote and Carol Dixon, the Irish implemented a strong offensive scheme, setting up crushing fast breaks and using speed to their advantage.

While Bobcat goalkeeper Jen Heup had a career game with 15 saves, Notre Dame's relentless pressure on the offensive side of the ball proved too much for the ailing Bobcats.

Irish goalkeeper Carol Dixon made seven saves in goal.

The Bobcats emphasized ball control — committing a season-low 16 turnovers — but faced a 21-4 deficit in draw controls against the Irish.

Foote continued her scoring streak, notching the 100th goal of her career. She tallied four goals and four assists. Foote was also named this week's Big East Player of the Week.

Jillian Byers showed her offensive prowess Thursday, contributing three goals and two assists. The one-two punch of Foote and Byers, combined with the rest of a strong Irish offense, created an almost unstoppable attack.

As promised, the Irish opened the game with a powerful and frenzied attack. Five of the team's goals were scored in the first 17 minutes. Notre Dame continued to drive the ball down the field, leading 8-4 at the half.

It was more of the same in the second half as the Irish tallied five unanswered goals in 13 minutes.

Bobcat freshman Kiersten McLouth's inspiring goal late in the second half proved to be for naught, as the Irish continued to work the ball offensively, scoring the last four goals of the game. Senior attack Brittany Fox scored three of the last four goals.

The Irish hope to extend their perfect season as they face Cornell at noon Sunday in the second game of a four-game homestand.

Contact Chris Williams at [cwilli11@nd.edu](mailto:cwilli11@nd.edu)

## SOFTBALL

## Irish travel to Oklahoma

*Team will play five games in three days in Tulsa tournament*

By DAN MURPHY  
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will answer a lot of questions this weekend as it makes its first appearance at the Best Western Airport — Tulsa Festival today through Sunday in Tulsa, Okla.

No. 17 Nebraska headlines a list of tough opponents for the Irish. The schedule also includes Big XII power Kansas and host Tulsa (8-3).

"This is definitely going to be a more challenging weekend," Irish assistant coach Kris Ganeff said. "We are going to see where we stand and what we need to improve on, so we are really looking forward to the opportunity."

The first opportunity to prove themselves comes this afternoon at three o'clock against the national powerhouse Cornhuskers. Senior Heather Booth is projected to start for the Irish. Booth won two last weekend and only gave up one run in 15 innings against Memphis.

"[The pitchers] really did their job last weekend," Ganeff said. "Right now our main concern is scoring. We

are hitting well, but we just aren't scoring runs."

The team left a total of 28 runners on base in a tournament in Miami last weekend — an average of one per inning.

Ganeff said the Irish have concentrated on situational hitting this week and are hoping to lower that number drastically this weekend.

With today's match-ups against the high-powered offenses of the Cornhuskers and Golden Hurricanes — who have put up seven runs in each of their last three wins — the team will need to capitalize on every scoring chance they get in order to stay in the game.

The team will play another doubleheader on Saturday against Kansas and Northern Iowa (3-6). Booth and Brittney Bargar will split time on the mound in those two games.

Bargar also had a big week-end in Miami lowering her ERA to 3.9 and notching her 24th strikeout in just 23 innings pitched this season.

Notre Dame finishes the

week with a Sunday morning game against Stephen F. Austin. The Ladyjacks come into the weekend with a 5-6 record after dropping two of three to Northwestern State earlier in the week.

"We are ready to play some good competition this week and show to the rest of the teams how good we are," Irish infielder Sara Schoonaert said.

Schoonaert, along with Booth and junior Stephanie Brown, was named to the all-tournament team last weekend.

Schoonaert and Brown have combined for eight of the teams' 12 stolen bases so far this year — and neither has been thrown

out yet. The speedy duo has also posted nine runs between them in the first nine games of the year.

"I am confident going into this tournament and just want to show the team how to play for the love of the game," Schoonaert said.

Contact Dan Murphy at [dmurphy6@nd.edu](mailto:dmurphy6@nd.edu)

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*Nominations are due by Thursday, March 9, 2006.*

## Write Sports! 1-4543



## Cornell

continued from page 24

a season slated with seven home contests — Corrigan said this year made sense. With the Loftus Center booked for the Alex Wilson Invitational this weekend, the Cornell game proved an easy fit, bringing an enticing matchup to Chicago lacrosse fans.

Part of the event's planning is to build enthusiasm for the beginning of the 2006 Major League Lacrosse season in May — which welcomes the expansion franchise Chicago Machine, who will play their games at Benedictine University.

Despite the hoopla surrounding the game, the Irish need look no further than last year's disappointing defeat to stay focused on the game itself.

"They're a very good team," said Corrigan of the Big Red, who beat Binghamton 16-3 in their season opener last week. "We're going to have to play well to beat them."

Senior co-captain D.J. Driscoll acknowledged the challenge the Irish face.

"They're good at just about every aspect of the game," he said. "They're coming in ranked ahead of us. We're expecting a dogfight."

If the Irish defense hopes to be as effective as it was in last week's 8-4 win over then No. 14 Penn State, it must contain Inside Lacrosse preseason first-team All-American — and 2005 second-teamer — Joe Boulukos. Boulukos, an offensive midfielder who scored 29 goals and recorded 14 assists last year, is one of Cornell's two preseason Tewaaraton Trophy nominees for the nation's best player.

"He is a very strong kid, good sized and shoots the heck out of the ball," Corrigan said. "They do a good job of getting him opportunities. They are a



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

**Irish midfielder Bill Liva moves upfield against Penn Feb. 26. Notre Dame will play Cornell in Chicago this weekend.**

patient team and they know how to get what they're looking for, and he's one of the things they're looking for."

If Driscoll and the defense cannot contain Boulukos, he still must get by sophomore goaltender Joey Kemp, whose first intense action as a college player came after replacing Stewart Crosland in the third quarter of last year's loss at Cornell. Making his return against the Big Red, Kemp is coming off a 13-save performance against Penn State, in which he made several splendid stops.

While the Irish defense concentrates on stopping Boulukos and the Big Red attack, attackman Pat Walsh — a Tewaaraton nominee himself — hopes to spark an Irish offensive surge after only recording one point in last week's triumph — the team's final goal with under two minutes left in the game.

A strong showing by the Irish can do nothing but help the Notre Dame recruiting effort.

"The game is growing out there," Corrigan said. "There are certainly more guys playing at the Division I level."

One such player was three-time All-American in the mid-

90's; Irish midfielder Todd Rassas.

Rassas — whose father was an All-American football player for the Irish — played lacrosse at Loyola Academy before taking his game to Notre Dame and one year in the MLL in 2003. Though he is a member of the 2002 and 2006 U.S. national teams, Rassas' day job has kept him from playing actually in the MLL. That day job actually brought him back into town last weekend — when Corrigan said Rassas was protecting President Bush as a member of the U.S. Secret Service.

As for this weekend, Corrigan hopes the current Irish can guard their net as well as one former player guards his boss.

"There were periods in last year's game when we looked absolutely awful," said Corrigan. "We turned the ball over and didn't play very smart. I think we're in a little better shape this year."

Tickets for Saturday's game are \$6 pre-order on [www.lacrosseamerica.com](http://www.lacrosseamerica.com) and \$8 at the game.

Contact Tim Dougherty at [tdougher@nd.edu](mailto:tdougher@nd.edu)

## Regionals

continued from page 24

NCAAs has a better chance of winning," men's foilist Mark Kubik said. "Basically everyone will be supporting each other so we get two qualifiers [in each weapon], but on the whole it's individual."

The qualification process is slated so that 40 percent of the score depends on initial seeding, and the remaining 60 percent depends on Saturday's performance.

Each team is allotted only two fencers per weapon, for a total of six fencers per sex and 12 overall.

That added stipulation means that some of Notre Dame's fencers — despite a top five ranking — might not qualify.

"Many will be fencing against each other for a position," Kubik said. "It's going to be a pretty stressful weekend, and I wouldn't say a lot of them are worried, but they're pretty anxious. It's probably going to be the most tense match of the year."

The initial seedings have already been decided and the early returns are very positive for Notre Dame. On the men's side, Karol Kostka, Greg Howard and Aaron Adjemian are all ranked in the top four of epee, while Mark Kubik and Jakub Jedrkowiak are 1-2 in foil. In the sabre, Patrick Ghattas, Matt Stearns and Bill Thanhouser hold the top three spots, meaning two will most likely qualify while one will not.

Neither fencer has a definitive experience advantage, either. Stearns competed at Nationals the last two years, while Thanhouser is one of the most highly ranked Americans on the Junior International Circuit.

While the Thanhouser-Stearns competition will be exciting, things are just as intriguing on the women's side.

In women's epee, the top three spots belong to Wayne State's Anna Garina and Justyna Konczalska and Northwestern's Sharon Sullivan, while Notre Dame's Amy Orlando and Madeleine Stephan round out the top-five.

"I'm sure there are a lot of people who should definitely qualify for women's epee, and there's also only two spots and four really good girls," women's sabre Ashley Serrette said.

Notre Dame also has Adrienne Nott, Emilie Prot and Melanie Bautista in the top five of women's foil, and Valerie Zagunis and Valerie Providenza 1-2 in women's sabre. If Notre Dame can perform to its seedings (as well as Northwestern and Wayne State), rival Ohio State might only send one female fencer to the national championship meet.

In total, Notre Dame has 15 fencers currently in qualifying position while the Buckeyes only have four. Last week, Ohio State beat Notre Dame overall in the Midwest Fencing Conference Championship.

Since last week's second place finish, the team has placed its focus to technique and overall fencing experience.

"Basically the full squad has been trying to fence as much as possible — less conditioning and more bouting," Kubik said.

"We fenced really hard this weekend to get ready and to make sure no Ohio State foilist makes it this weekend," women's foilist Rachel Cota said.

In addition to qualifying as one of the top five spots, fencers can make the team as alternates.

"I would like to qualify as an alternate for NCAAs, because I just want to go and see everyone fence," Serrette said.

Fencers can also make the NCAAs by garnering one of two at-large bids. Adjemian earned one last year and Orlando did the year before that.

Despite the potential for teammate versus teammate matches, Cota says the Irish will rally around what's best for the squad.

"Actually, the attitude is really nice because everybody understands you have to fence your best ... there's competition of course, but everyone wants what's best," Cota said.

Cota, who can't fence this weekend because of an injury, said she and her teammates are doing whatever they can to improve the spirit — even making ribbons for those competing to wear. Cota was also confident in the team's ability to qualify in all 12 spots.

"There's gonna be some pretty [tough] competition," Cota said. "I'm pretty confident we'll qualify all the fencers we need, but it's going to be a fight and we'll be up to the challenge."

Contact Jack Thornton at [jthornt4@nd.edu](mailto:jthornt4@nd.edu)

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## Baseball

continued from page 24

professional dome where weather is not a factor is a good experience for his team.

"It's a much different atmosphere than we're used to," he said. "But it's an exciting thing because you're playing in a Major League stadium, you don't have to worry about getting games cancelled due to weather, and you don't have to worry about factors like wind and wetness affecting anything — so that's all fun."

After this weekend, Notre Dame has one more tournament on the road before coming home March 21 to face Wright State.

The Big East season starts March 25 on the road when the Irish face Georgetown. For this reason, Mainieri said it is imperative for his team to play the best teams it can now.

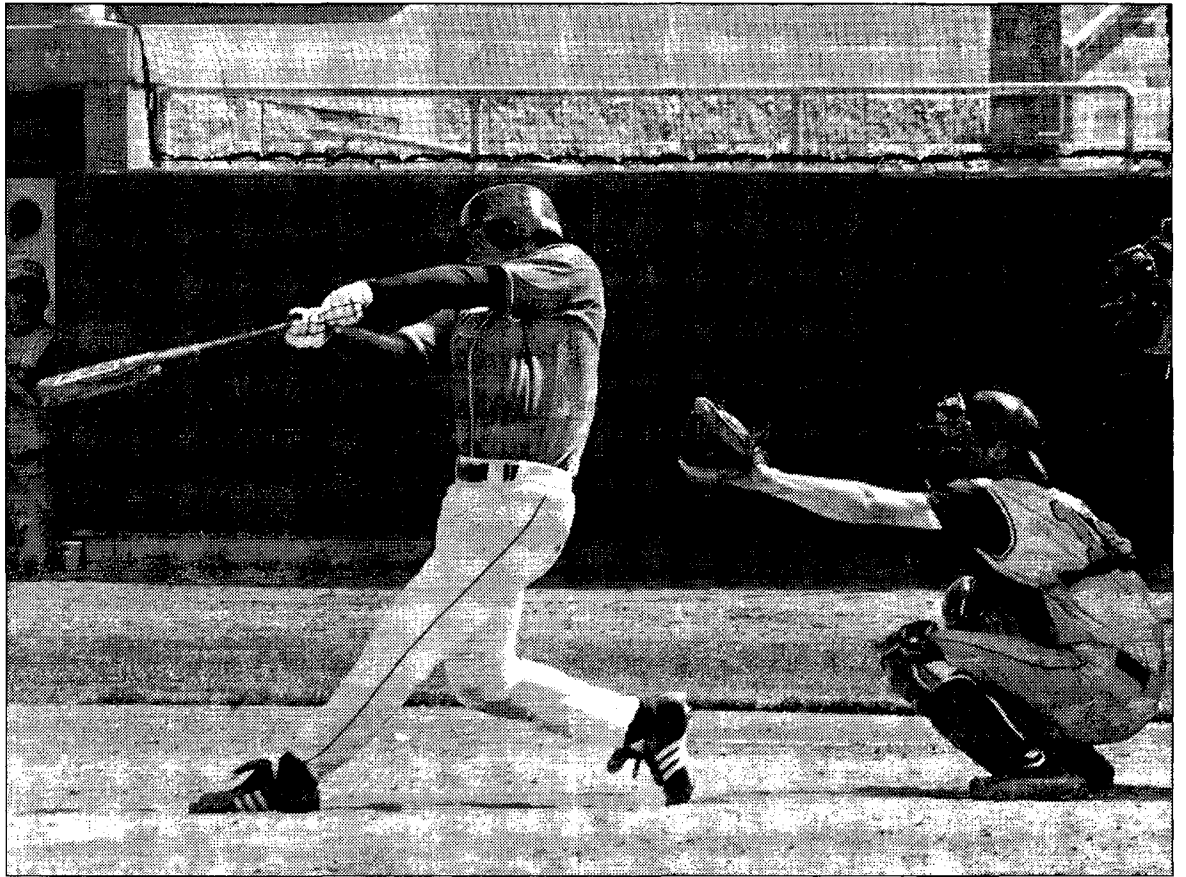
"There's no question that we're playing the toughest teams that we can find,"

Mainieri said. "You're not going to beat them all. You try to beat them all, and you hope that your team just keeps getting better so that when you get to conference play your team has really gelled."

But, he said, the Irish are always better later in the season than now, when they have to play on the road for a month before having any home games because of the South Bend weather.

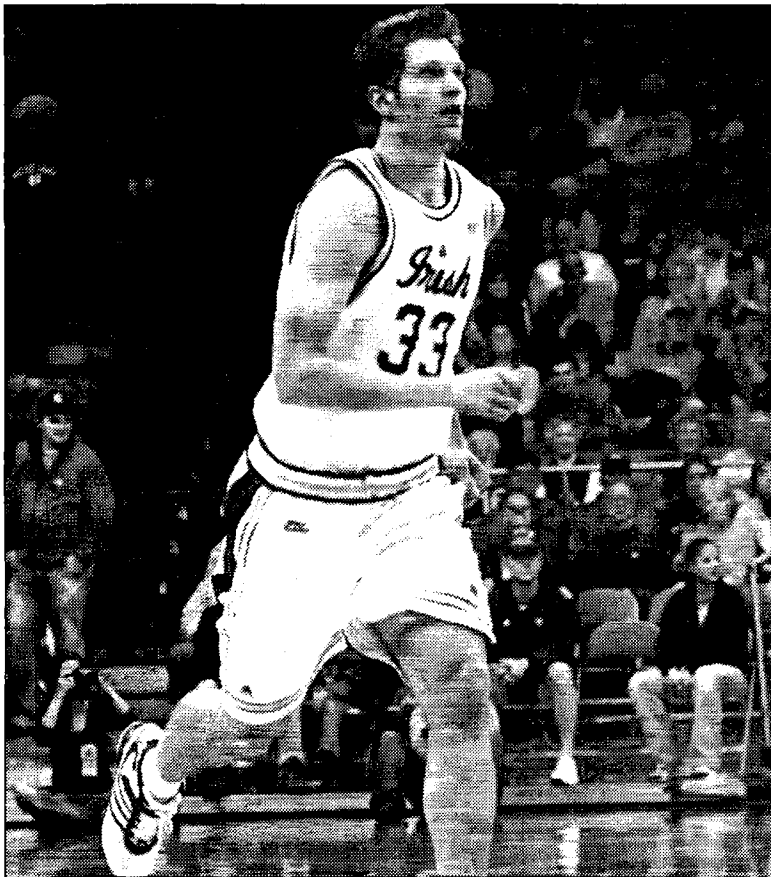
"We have to play quite a few games on the road to start the season, and our team's always a better team in April and May than we are in February and March because we're playing so many road games and we're just getting the season started," Mainieri said. "When we finally get to play some home games, it really helps our team quite a bit. We're going to go out there this weekend and just try to improve in every facet of our game, particularly in taking advantage of our scoring opportunities."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at [hvanhoeg@nd.edu](mailto:hvanhoeg@nd.edu)



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Irish shortstop Greg Lopez hits a fly ball against Villanova April 25 last season. Notre Dame will travel to Minneapolis to play in the Dairy Queen Classic this weekend.



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish forward Zach Hillesland runs upcourt during Notre Dame's 80-72 loss to Marquette Saturday at the Joyce Center.

## Demons

continued from page 24

A win Saturday would give the Irish the No. 12, 11 or 10-seed, depending on results from other conference games. It would be the sixth post-season berth in Irish coach Mike Brey's six years at Notre Dame. But if Notre Dame loses, its five wins will not be enough to clinch one of the 12 spots in the league tournament.

Even if Notre Dame wins, there are several possible scenarios in which it could end up with the No. 12 seed in the Big East tournament. If St. John's beats Rutgers Sunday, Louisville beats Connecticut Saturday and Providence loses to Marquette Saturday, the Irish will be the No. 12 seed.

That also goes for the scenario in which Rutgers wins and Louisville and Providence lose. Or it would apply if Rutgers, Louisville and Providence all win.

The Irish also could end up with the No. 11 seed if St. John's beats Rutgers, Providence beats Marquette and Louisville beats Connecticut.

Or, they could be the No. 11 seed if St. John's beats Rutgers and Louisville and Providence win their respective games.

Notre Dame could grab the No. 10 seed if St. John's, Providence and Connecticut win — a likely possibility if Providence can defeat Marquette on the Golden Eagles' senior night.

DePaul beat Notre Dame earlier this season 73-67 on Jan. 7 at Allstate Arena. In

that game, Irish guard Colin Falls led the Irish with 26 points on 8-of-13 shooting, his second highest single-game total this season.

On Saturday, Notre Dame will be playing on its home court during Senior Night — the final home game for Irish seniors Chris Quinn, Rick Cornett and Francis.

"[We want to] get our last home win," Francis said. "And it's going to be Senior Night for us, so it's going to be a pretty good atmosphere back at Notre Dame."

DePaul is 4-3 in its last seven games but 4-9 in its last 13. The Blue Demons have defeated Seton Hall, St. John's, South Florida and Syracuse during that stretch.

Mejia leads the Blue Demons averaging 14.4 points per game during the entire season, but forward Wilson Chandler is the top DePaul scorer in Big East play, averaging 14.6 points in 15 conference games.

*"... it's going to be Senior Night for us, so it's going to be a pretty good atmosphere."*

Torin Francis  
Irish center

Contact Bobby Griffin at [rgriffi3@nd.edu](mailto:rgriffi3@nd.edu) and Pat Leonard at [pleonard@nd.edu](mailto:pleonard@nd.edu)

## IRISH HOCKEY



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SUNDAY @ 7:00PM (IF NECESSARY)

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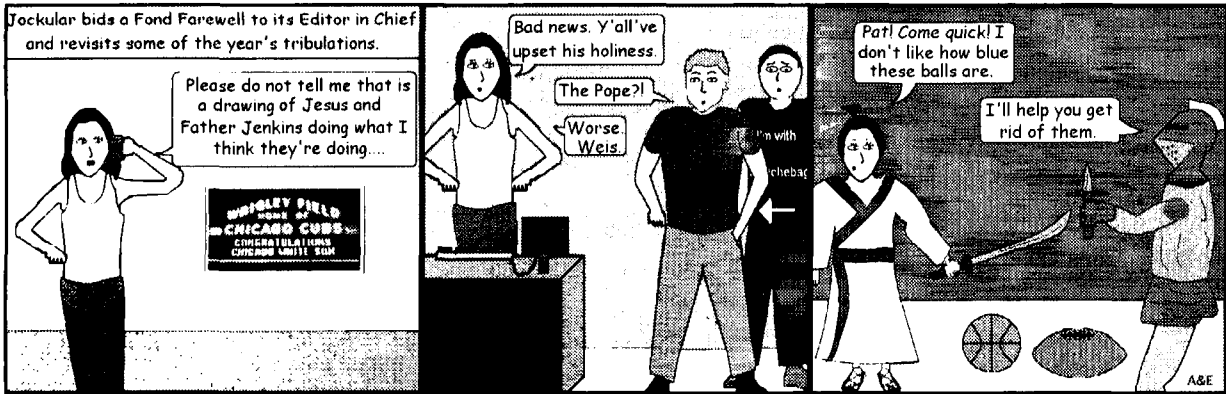
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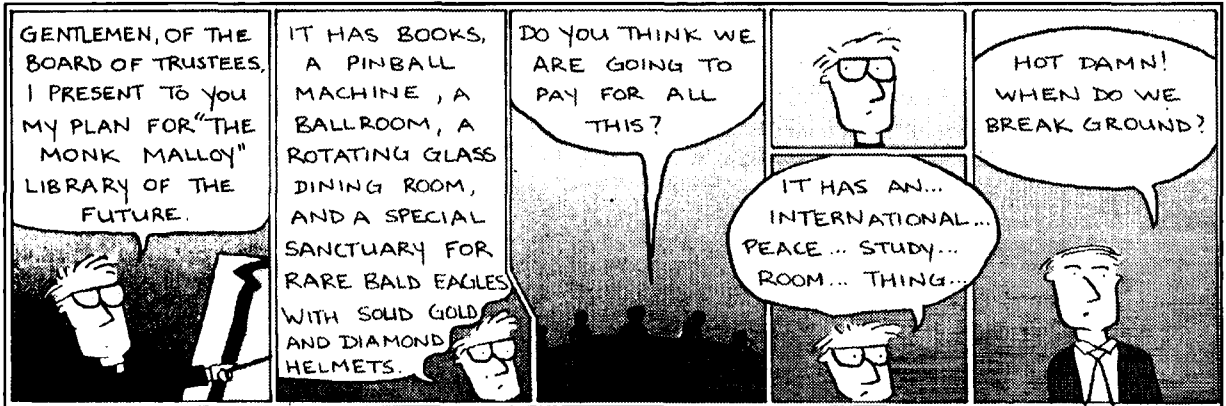
JOCKULAR

ALEC WHITE & ERIK POWERS



CROISSANT WORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD  
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

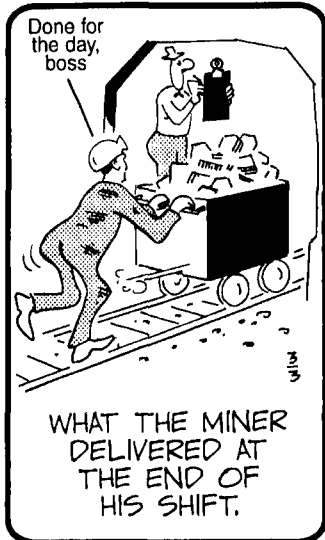
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHACO

EXOID

HEBLED

LIDIAN



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

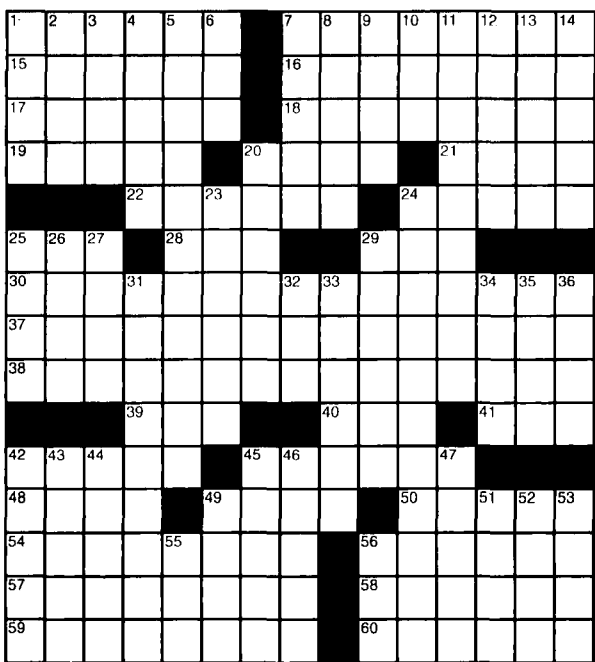
Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOWNY CLOAK DAMPEN WEEVIL  
Answer: What the young judge did when he finished researching the case — LAID DOWN THE "LAW"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- Antique store?
  - Violin components
  - Make a ball
  - Ladle
  - Secrets
  - Holder of an afternoon service
  - French flag color, in France
  - "Shoot!"
  - Where workers may do the daily grind?
  - Excited pointer's comment
  - 1999-2001 Broadway musical revue
  - Editorial cartoonist Rall
  - Listener
  - From, in some names
  - Former Washington duo
  - Stepped in like Superman
  - Somehow
  - Resort of a sort abbr.
  - Old TV control abbr.
  - Old protest grp.
  - 2000 Olympic gymnast Ray
  - Rhoda's sister on "Rhoda"
  - Passiontide time to speak
  - Dogsbody, so to speak
  - Mark of distinction
  - Isabel Allende's birthplace
  - Meet, as expectations
  - Child's cry at a parade, perhaps
  - "Harrumph!"
  - Kids' game sites
  - Preceder of many a goal
- DOWN**
- Unpopular worker
  - Cast
  - Sea predator
  - National headquarters of J.C. Penney, Dr Pepper and Frito-Lay
  - Paper strip for old computer data
  - Energy Star org.
  - Toledo twinkler
  - Command to a dog
  - Just so
  - Fail to keep
  - Surrounded by
  - "Dona Pacem" (Latin hymn)
  - Plays for a sucker
  - Ancient burial stone



- Puzzle by Harvey Estes
- Famous name in newspaper publishing
  - Like many a mistake
  - Kin of -ists
  - Fashion designer Perry
  - Olympus alternative
  - Hero of Charles Frazier's "Cold Mountain"
  - Topper with a tab
  - Voluptuaries
  - Places for many stained-glass windows
  - Tender in Tijuana
  - First name among clothiers
  - Huntsman Center players
  - Work with mail
  - Old TV's Club
  - Narrow waterway

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.  
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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Tiffani Thiessen, 31; Richard Dean Anderson, 55; Gail O'Grady, 42; Mariska Hargitay, 41

**Happy Birthday:** This may turn out to be an emotional year, but only if you haven't taken care of issues that have been hanging over your head for some time. Rid yourself of the burdens you have been carrying around with you, once and for all, and you will see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's time to stop letting negativity consume you. Instead, fight for the positive and you will find yourself in a new headspace. Your numbers are 3, 14, 28, 32, 38, 41

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't start anything today that will lead to a confrontation with someone you love. You have to keep things light and put your efforts into where you see yourself heading in the future. \*\*  
**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Visiting a friend will lift your spirits and guide you down an interesting new path. You have plenty to contribute, and if you do, you will join forces with someone interesting. \*\*\*\*  
**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Consider your past and the people you have met along the way. Someone from your past may be able to help you, but you must not let him or her take over. Pace yourself and stay in control. \*\*\*  
**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Emotional matters may be difficult to deal with today. An older friend or relative may not understand what is going on. Your explanation will help and bring you closer together. \*\*\*  
**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Sudden changes regarding your financial situation will surprise you. You can make good decisions regarding your health. The more you do to make improvements, the better you will feel. \*\*\*  
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Partnerships can be formed, but make sure that you are both on the same page before making any promises. Once you have your plans laid out, nothing will stop you from achieving your goals. \*\*\*\*  
**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** What you think is going on and what is really going on will not coincide. Back up and refrain from voicing your opinion until you have a better understanding of what everyone else is doing. \*\*  
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Today is all about love, creativity and getting to the bottom of things. You can fix a lot of the troubled areas in your life if you are precise, determined and dedicated. \*\*\*\*\*  
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** An older relative will appreciate what you do to help out. Your luck is changing, and you may find yourself in a windfall. You may have a change of heart. Grovel if you must. \*\*\*  
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Get down to business and let whoever you care about know what you are thinking and how you feel. It may be your only opportunity to do what's right and to set the record straight. \*\*\*  
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You have to take better care of yourself. Set a new regime that will help get you back into shape using exercise, proper diet and a healthier lifestyle. Take the initiative to improve. \*\*\*  
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Love and romance are certainly in the picture, but so is your ability to produce something very creative and unusual. Strive to reach your goals and you will feel satisfied. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive and caring and know how to get things done. You strive to do your best and will take on more than your share in order to help. You are a thoughtful, kind and concerned friend.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) and [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com).

THE OBSERVER

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## FENCING

# Regional power

*Notre Dame hopes to take all available Midwest berths in the NCAA Championships*

By JACK THORNTON  
Sports Writer

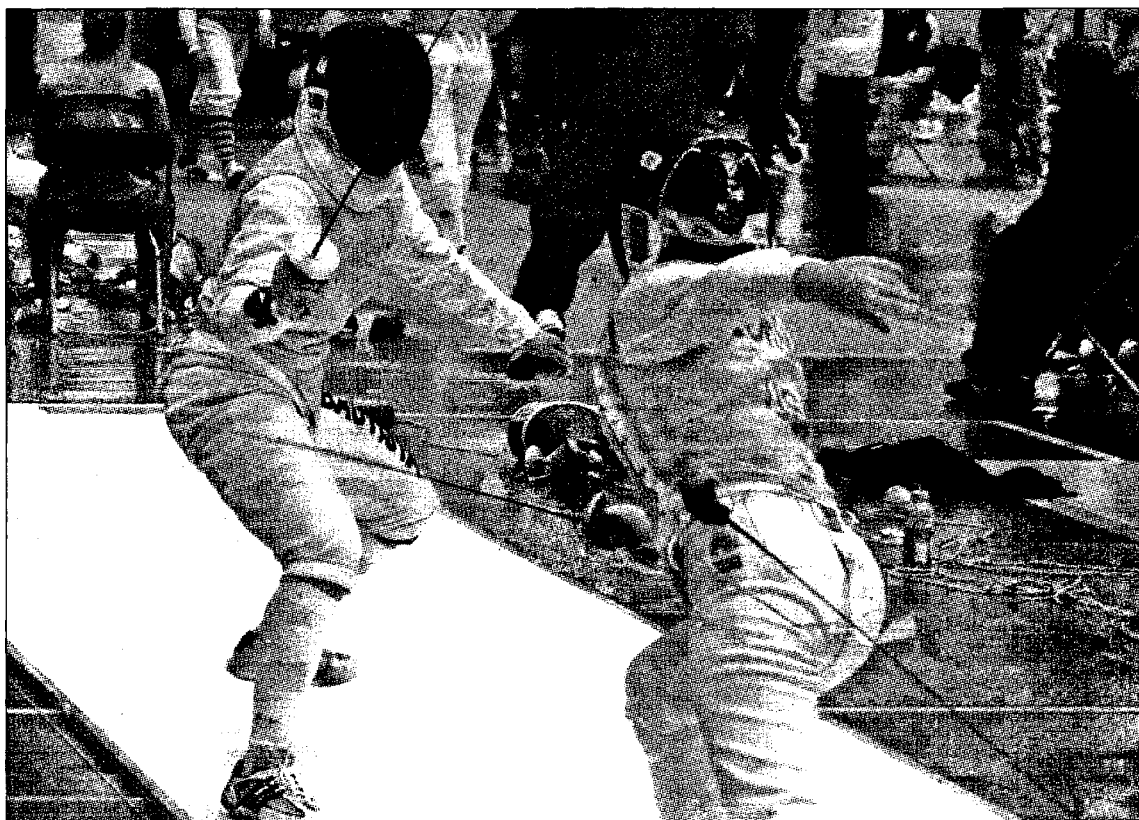
The Irish are poised to qualify several fencers for the NCAA Championships at the Midwest Fencing Regional this Saturday in Cleveland, Ohio.

The top five finishers in all of the women's events as well as men's sabre and epee will qualify for the NCAAs. For the Men's Foil, only the top three finishers in the Regional earn a berth.

Unlike last weekend's Midwest Fencing Conference Championship, the Regionals is based solely on individual competition. The meet will feature pool play followed by direct elimination.

Individuals from each team will compete in all three weapons to earn a berth to the NCAA Championships in Houston, Tex. March 15-19.

"It's team-oriented in the sense that whatever team qualifies more people for the



Notre Dame's Melanie Bautista, left, competes in the foil against Northwestern's Jessica Florenda at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships Feb. 26.

see REGIONALS/page 21

## MEN'S LACROSSE

# Irish take on Big Red in Illinois

*Contest between two ranked teams will be first for Chicagoland*

By TIM DOUGHERTY  
Sports Writer

The Chicago area has never hosted a Division I men's lacrosse game.

That will change Saturday at noon when the No. 12 Irish face off against No. 8 Cornell in a marquee non-conference game at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill.

Lacrosse America is sponsoring the game — technically an Irish home contest. Notre Dame lost to the Big Red 11-10 in Ithaca, N.Y. last season.

Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said his team has been interested in setting up a game in the Chicago area for several years, and — in

see CORNELL/page 21

## BASEBALL

# Team excited to play in major league park

*Dairy Queen Classic in Metrodome will host ND, three others*

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN  
Sports Writer

Despite his Notre Dame squad's 2-2 finish at the Service Academies Classic last weekend, Irish coach Paul Mainieri is looking for much of the same from his team at this weekend's Dairy Queen Classic in Minneapolis, Minn.

"I think if we play just as well as we did last weekend that we have a chance to be successful," Mainieri said this week. "We just need to take more advantages of our scoring opportunities this weekend."

The Irish start the weekend this afternoon when they face Nebraska (5-2), ranked as high as No. 4 by College Baseball, at 12:15. Senior lefty Tom Thornton (1-0), who

gave up no runs in seven innings in his first start last weekend, will take the mound for the Irish against Nebraska's Joba Chamberlain (1-1, 1.93 ERA). Thornton was named the Big East Pitcher of the Week after his seven shutout innings against Indiana State on Feb. 23.

Saturday, Notre Dame sends Jeff Samardzija to the mound to face Minnesota's Dustin Brabender for the 6:35 p.m. matchup.

The tournament concludes Sunday as Notre Dame squares off with Arizona at 11:05 a.m. Jeff Manship will pitch for the Irish against the Wildcats' Brad Mills (2-0, 1.86 ERA).

All of the tournament's games will be played in the Metrodome, the home stadium of the Minnesota Twins. This year the Golden Gophers are set to play 24 of their 26 home games there. Last season, Minnesota played 19 games there, going 11-8.

Mainieri said playing in a

see BASEBALL/page 22

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# ND one win from tourney

*Team will face DePaul Saturday at the Joyce Center*

By BOBBY GRIFFIN and PAT LEONARD  
Sports Writers

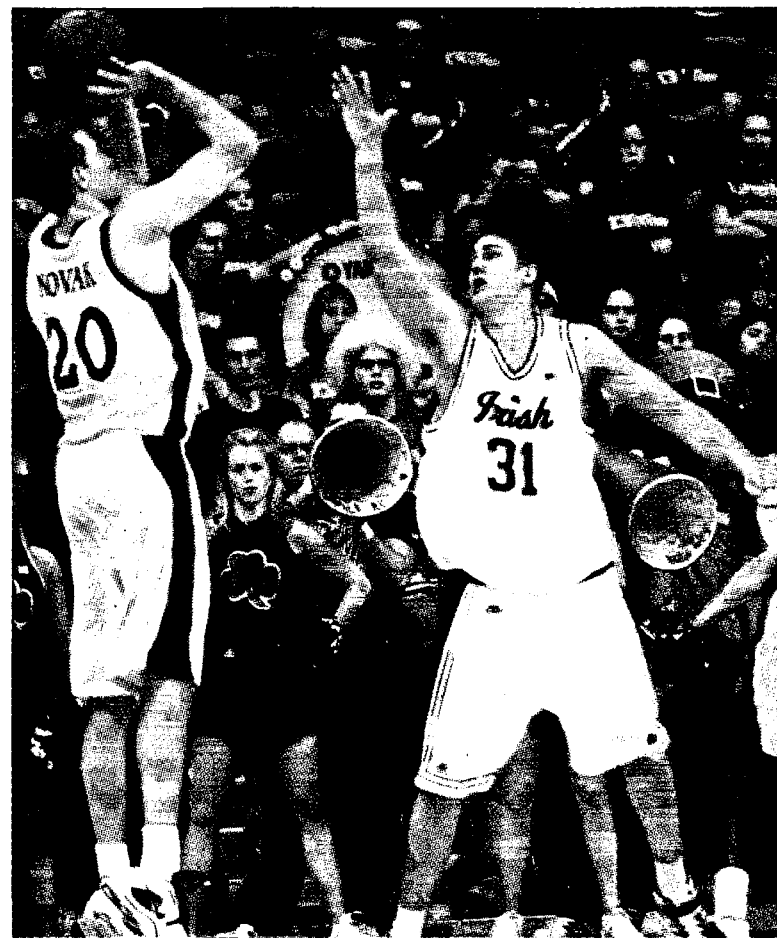
If they win, they're in.

Notre Dame (14-12, 5-10 Big East) can clinch a conference tournament berth Saturday with a win over DePaul at the Joyce Center in its final regular-season game. With a loss, the Irish season is over.

"DePaul [is] going to be another battle we have to win — going against a team that already beat us earlier in the season, we have to get them back," Irish forward Torin Francis said Wednesday night. "[We have to] get this win."

DePaul (12-14, 5-10) walloped Syracuse Thursday night at home, 108-69, behind 27 points from forward Karron Clarke and 21 from guard Sammy Mejia.

see DEMONS/page 22



Irish forward Rob Kurz defends on the perimeter against Marquette Feb. 25. The Irish take on DePaul at home Saturday.

## SPORTS AT A GLANCE

### MEN'S SWIMMING

Three Irish swimmers will try to qualify for the NCAA Championships at the Last Chance Meet in West Lafayette this weekend.

page 19

### BENGAL BOUTS

Championship fights are set after Bengal Bouts semifinal action Thursday.

pages 14 and 16

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Irish seniors look to extend the end of their careers through the Big East tournament and beyond.

Irish Insider

### ND WOMEN'S BBALL

Notre Dame travels to Hartford, Conn. for the Big East tournament this weekend.

Irish Insider

### HOCKEY

The Irish will host Alaska-Fairbanks in a three-game series to begin the CCHA playoffs starting tonight.

Irish Insider

### BENGAL BOUTS

Fighters prepare for championship bouts Sunday at the Joyce Center Arena.

Irish Insider

# IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 3, 2006

THE  
OBSERVER

NOTRE DAME

13

## DESPERATE TO DANCE

IRISH SENIOR POINT GUARD MEGAN DUFFY  
HOPES TO LEAD NOTRE DAME THROUGH  
THE BIG EAST TOURNAMENT THIS WEEKEND  
AND INTO THE NCAA BRACKET

# Irish start with Bulls and hope for Huskies

## Notre Dame faces South Florida in first round of tournament

By KEN FOWLER  
Sports Writer

Notre Dame looks to improve its NCAA Tournament prospects this weekend in Hartford, Conn., as the Irish square off against South Florida in the first round of the Big East Tournament at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Both No. 10-seed Notre Dame (17-10, 8-8 Big East) and No. 7-seed South Florida (19-10, 9-7) seek to wrap up a likely spot in the upcoming

Big Dance.

"I'd like to keep winning just because we don't want to be waiting for a week to see where we go," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Tuesday after Notre Dame's 72-65 win over Pittsburgh.

The Irish entered their contest with the Panthers at No. 34 in the most recent Ratings Percentage Index (RPI), and South Florida checked in at No. 32.

The NCAA Tournament selection committee uses the RPI as one of the major tools in seeding the 64-team bracket.

McGraw said she thought an RPI under 40 would likely earn the Irish a bid to the

tournament, as 33 teams earn automatic bids by winning their respective conference championships.

"No. 34, that's pretty good," she said.

Notre Dame and the Bulls played once this season, a dramatic 68-64 South Florida victory at the Joyce Center Jan. 28. Bulls forward Ezria Parsons hit a 3-pointer with two seconds left in regulation to force overtime, and Irish guard Megan Duffy missed a three of her own that would have tied the game with three seconds left in the extra session.

"[Our] biggest focus is ... to get some wins and get to the NCAA Tournament," Duffy said.

After Notre Dame's 41-point second half against Pittsburgh — the team's third consecutive win — McGraw said that is a distinct possibility.

"Now we're back on track," she said. "I'm thrilled with the way we're playing. Three games in a row, our confidence is high."

Duffy said the team has momentum heading into Hartford.

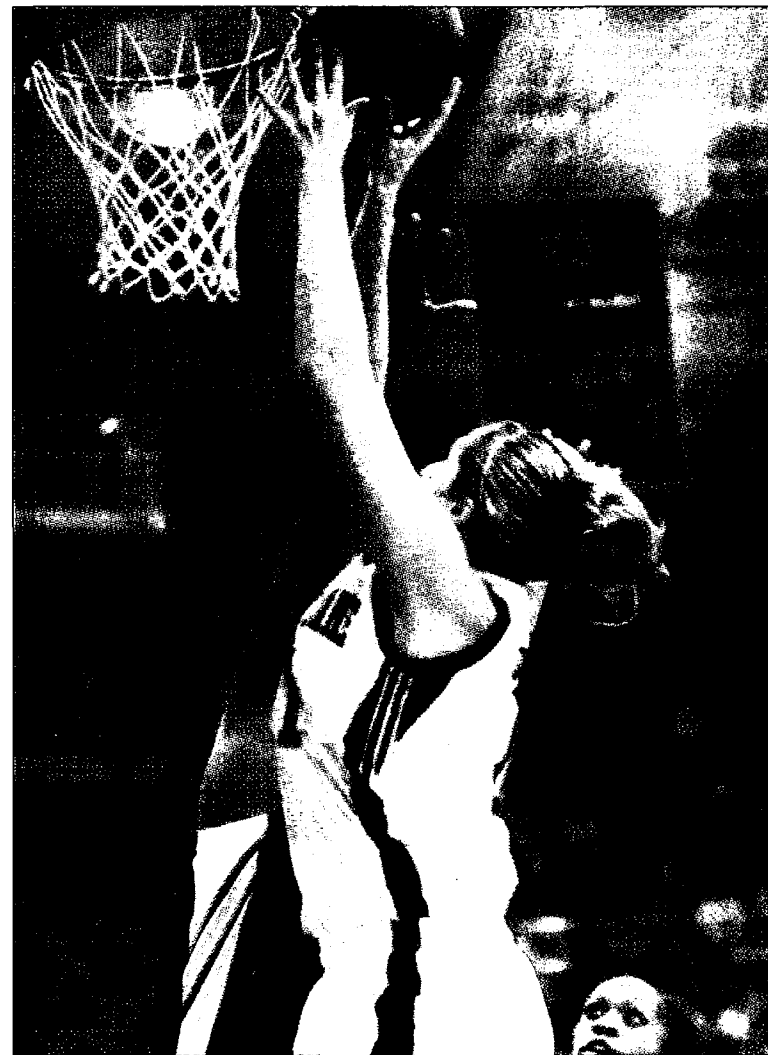
"We're in good position now, where we need to win ... a couple games in the Big East Tournament [to be sure we get in the field of 64]."

The 6-foot Parsons had nine points and 14 rebounds in the game.

For the Irish to win Saturday, they must contain her and 5-foot-11 forward Jessica Dickson. Dickson finished with 18 points and six rebounds in the teams' earlier meeting.

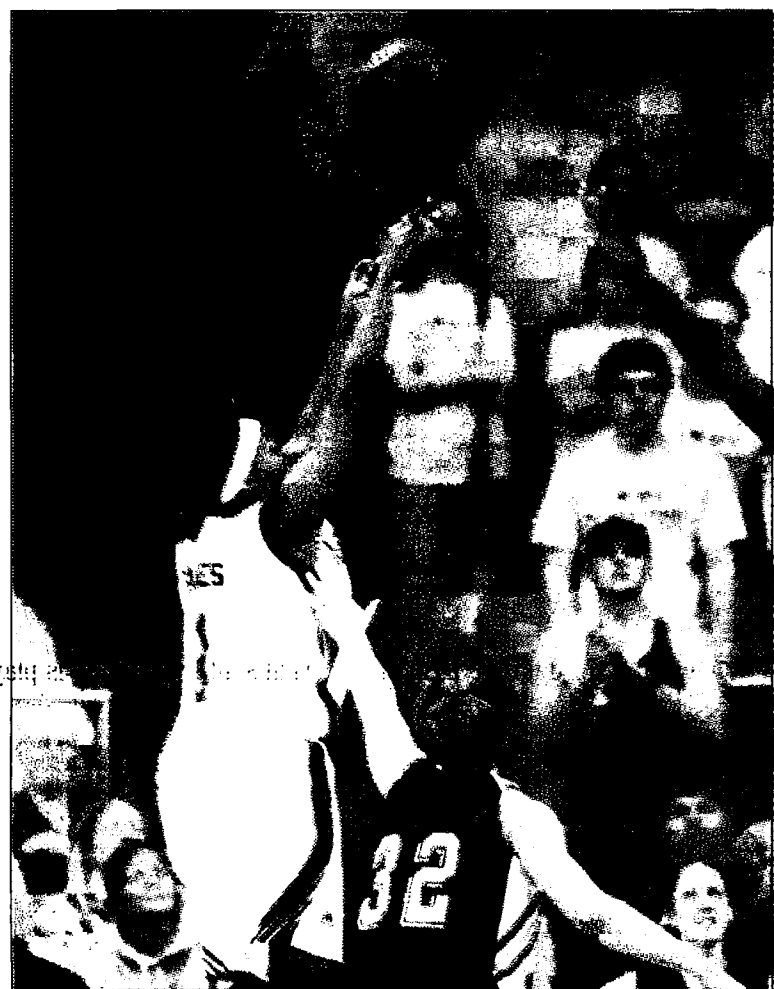
Notre Dame will look for 6-foot-3 senior forward Courtney LaVere and 6-foot freshman

forward Lindsay Schrader to bottle up the two Bulls forwards. Against the Panthers,



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Irish forward Courtney LaVere goes up for a basket during Notre Dame's 72-65 victory over Pittsburgh Tuesday. LaVere had 14 points before fouling out in the second half.



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Irish guard Tulyah Gaines shoots a jumper during Notre Dame's 72-65 victory over Pittsburgh at the Joyce Center Tuesday.

LaVere centered the post defense and Schrader often rotated over to help against 6-foot-3 Pittsburgh center

Marcedes Walker, who finished just 2-of-12 shooting on the night.

"I thought Schrader did a phenomenal job," Panthers coach Agnus Berenato said after the game. "We don't have any [guards] to combat her size. She did a very good job on the

boards, and she was able to turn and score."

South Florida beat Georgetown 71-57 Tuesday night in its last regular-season game Tuesday.

The winner of the Irish-Bulls game will face the No. 2-seeded Huskies of Connecticut Sunday at 6 p.m. in the second round. If the Irish win both games, they will play in the conference semifinals Monday at 6 p.m. against No. 3 DePaul, No. 9 Pittsburgh or No. 11 Cincinnati.

Contact Ken Fowler at [kfowler1@nd.edu](mailto:kfowler1@nd.edu)

## FIRST ROUND BREAKDOWN

### Points per game



### Points against average



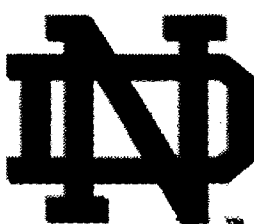
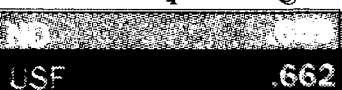
### Rebounds per game



### Assists per game



### Free-throw percentage



GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic

## BIG EAST TOURNAMENT

NO. 4 ST. JOHN'S

NO. 5 LOUISVILLE

NO. 12 W. VIRGINIA

NO. 8 VILLANOVA

NO. 9 MARQUETTE

NO. 7 USF

NO. 10 NOTRE DAME

NO. 6 PITTSBURGH

NO. 11 CINCINNATI

NO. 3 DEPAUL



GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic



# Allen thrives off the bench one year after injury

Sophomore guard tore her ACL in last season's NCAA Tournament but now is excelling on the court

By ERIC RETTER  
Sports Writer

Her coach didn't expect her to perform at the level she has this season.

Neither did conventional medical wisdom that said after an injury like the one sophomore guard Charel Allen suffered last March — a torn ACL — a player typically wouldn't be a major contributor until one year later.

"We thought March," Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw said about Allen's return before the team's Feb. 19 game against Connecticut. "I didn't really expect her to be playing [extended minutes] until January."

When the Irish take on South Florida Saturday the Notre Dame guard will play in her

28th game this season, and she has logged meaningful minutes in every Irish contest of the 2005-06 slate.

"I'm pleased," McGraw said. "She's surprised us by coming back early."

For her part, Allen, who averages 8.7 points and 24.4 minutes per game, has made her rehabilitation and return to the team a priority.

"At the beginning of this season, I was really focused on recovering and just getting into playing shape. And I say I'm about there — I'm about 100 percent," she said.

Over the last month, Allen has

improved the overall level of her game. This fact has shown mainly in her offensive output, as she has scored in double figures in six of the past seven games. During that time, she earned McGraw's praises.

"I felt like in the last three games [before Connecticut] she's looked like a different player," McGraw said on Feb. 18. "I really think that she's getting better every game."

Allen, however, has shown scoring promise all season, and her 16 points Tuesday against Pittsburgh matched her total against Michigan Nov. 18 — the team's first game of the season.

"My coach is telling me, encouraging me, to shoot more," Allen said. "I guess she has faith in me and I have faith in myself, so right now I'm just looking for my shot a little more."

Throughout the past seven games, a majority of Allen's points have come in the second half. Often, the team has been down when Allen begins to score big. Against Villanova on Feb. 7, Allen led the team's effort to claw back from a 21-point deficit to force overtime — scoring all of her 14 points in the second half behind 7-for-10 shooting.

"Maybe I should turn it on a little bit earlier, because I always turn it on at the end and we're ... losing," she said.

Allen has also been a consistent force under the boards all season, ranking third on the team with 4.4 rebounds a game despite playing at guard and carrying a guard's frame.

*"At the beginning of this season, I was really focused on recovering and just getting into playing shape."*

**Charel Allen**  
Irish guard



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Irish guard Charel Allen dribbles up the court during Notre Dame's 72-65 victory over Pittsburgh Tuesday.



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Nearly a year after tearing her ACL, Irish guard Charel Allen drives towards the basket against Pittsburgh Tuesday.

"I just go in there and try because people underestimate me because of my size," Allen said. "They don't really look to box me out so I try to grab every loose change that our forwards don't pick up."

In part because of that mentality, Allen's 24.4 minutes per game ranks third on the Irish in the category. However, she still has barely cracked the starting lineup, having started just one of the team's 27 games.

"I think we need a spark off the bench," McGraw said. "I think that she gives that great lift coming in off the bench."

She's played well and we thought about starting her, but if we changed the lineup, I'm not sure who would give us that energy off the bench."

Despite not being on the court to start games, Allen says she has felt no diminished value in coming off the bench.

"That's all I wanna do is play, whether I start or whether I come off the bench," she said. "Whatever coach feels like doing with me, I'll do whatever she asks."

Contact Eric Retter at  
eretter@nd.edu

## Irish not sure which squad will show up to play

Team has been inconsistent, falling to weak squads but hanging with league's best

Who's going to show up?

That's the biggest question for the Irish this weekend as they head to Hartford for the Big East tournament.

Over the course of the season, No. 10-seeded Notre Dame has proven it can hang with anyone, that it can play good teams and that it can erase deficits.

This is the team that came back from 15 down to beat Pittsburgh Tuesday. This is the team that overcame a 12-point deficit to beat DePaul 78-75 on Jan. 17. This is the team that erased a 21-point deficit against Villanova Feb. 7 before falling 69-65 in overtime.

When they want to, they can play with anybody.

However, the Irish (17-10, 8-8) have had seven of their 10 losses come by 10 points or more, including a 29-point drubbing at the hands of the DePaul Blue Demons and an

embarrassing 74-61 loss to Seton Hall, a team that finished with three wins in the Big East.

Because of this, it's no surprise that Irish coach Muffet McGraw described her team as "frustrating to watch" after Notre Dame lost a heartbreaker to South Florida — its opponent in Saturday's first round — squandering a 15-point second-half rally and losing 69-65 in overtime Jan. 28.

For much of their season, it has seemed at times that two Irish teams have played every game: a first-half team that digs itself a big hole and a second half one that desperately fights out of them.

At halftime of Tuesday's game, when the Irish were down by 10, senior point guard Megan Duffy gave the team her final regular season halftime talk.

"We looked flat out there. I didn't think we were working hard enough," Duffy said. "Nothing that I don't normally say."

As has become the pattern, second-half Notre Dame sent the game to overtime and eventually won 72-65.

Heading into the Big East

tournament, where the Irish desperately need a strong showing to keep their NCAA Tournament hopes alive, Notre Dame needs to break out of the pattern that has become too common this season.

Yes, the Irish have heart, and have shown it in their numerous comebacks from big-time deficits. In do-or-die games — the only type of games that Notre Dame will play from here on out — this coolness under pressure will be a very valuable asset.

At the same time, the Irish are only coming back from big deficits because they continuously find themselves in them, and they have trailed by at least 10 in 12 games this season.

Much of this relates back to the on-court inconsistency Notre Dame has showed

throughout the season. Though the team has become more consistent in recent games, many of their games have been marred by long scoring droughts and offensive struggles.

While improving the offensive consistency has been one of McGraw's focus points in practice all season, the team has continued to be a streaky squad.

"If I knew how to explain it, we would have a better record than what we have now," sophomore guard Charel Allen said.

Over the course of the season, the Big East has proven that, top to bottom, it is one of the most competitive conferences in college basketball. During the regular season, the Irish generally played the nine teams ranked ahead of them closely, beating three — Marquette, DePaul, and

Pittsburgh — and losing to two more — South Florida and Villanova, in overtime.

When the tournament starts Saturday, Notre Dame has the opportunity to reverse many of their close losses, beginning with South Florida.

However, to make any kind of postseason run, the Irish will need more than the standard halftime speech to get them out of a funk. If they start the game off flat, they run a good chance of being on a westbound plane Saturday night.

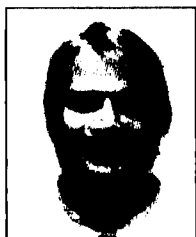
In the history of conference 10-seeds, the Irish might prove to be one of the better ones, and the team has a chance to make noise this weekend.

For that to happen though, they need to avoid the droughts and deficits that have plagued the starts of many of their games.

From now on, second-half Notre Dame will need to pull a double shift.

*The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.*

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Eric Retter

Sports Writer

*Heading into the Big East tournament, where the Irish desperately need a strong showing to keep their NCAA Tournament hopes alive, Notre Dame needs to break out of the pattern that has become too common this season.*

# Deal and deliver

*Point guard Megan Duffy has taken on the role of passer, scorer and leader in four seasons at Notre Dame*

By KEN FOWLER  
Sports Writer

Megan Duffy has had people in her face all year.

"I've been faced, I feel like, with every kind of defense," Duffy said. "They've put players that are taller than me, like 6-foot athletic players and scrappy players. There's been box-and-one's, and most game's my defender never leaves me."

The senior preseason All-American entered the 2005-06 campaign with a reputation as the nation's top pure point guard, but her team this season was different than the Irish squads she had led from the point in the past. So her role changed. And opposing teams had to adjust.

"I've always been a point guard," Duffy said. "I get my kicks out of setting people up and seeing them score."

Playing with standout forward Jacqueline Batteast last season, Duffy's 178 assists were the third most by a junior in team history. But a year later, Batteast is gone and the product of Chaminade-Julienne H.S. in Dayton, Ohio, has evolved into Notre Dame's top scoring weapon on offense.

"I think the entire season coming in, I realized I had to be a scorer from the point guard position, which is a little different for me," Duffy said. "Normally, your first role as a point guard is to set everybody up, and I still have to keep that in my mind."

Duffy enters this weekend's Big East Tournament as the conference's eighth leading scorer, averaging 15.5 points per game. Her assist totals have fallen from 5.39 per game as a junior to 4.25 this season, but her scoring is up from 12.3 points per game.

"My assists have down this year, but I kind of knew that coming into this year," Duffy said. "I can't get too bogged down with that or frustrated with it."

After scoring 11 points in Notre Dame's 72-65 Senior Night victory over Pittsburgh Tuesday, Duffy extended her

double-digit scoring streak to 12 games, the longest such mark of her career. Notre Dame was just 1-3 in the Big East and losers of three of four when the streak began. Now, the Irish have won three consecutive crucial games — scoring 70 or more points in each game — to greatly improve their NCAA Tournament chances.

"It was definitely a little different being in that position, but I think I've had to have that [scoring] mentality all year," she said. "Sometimes it has to be a little stronger when we're struggling to score."

Notre Dame has struggled mightily at times in a wildly inconsistent season, but head coach Muffet McGraw said there is always one constant on the team.

"We definitely have gotten to that point where you just want to give up, and we've battled through that," McGraw said. "I think that's a real testament to Megan Duffy and the character that she brings to the team. She never quits, and the team just really feeds off her."

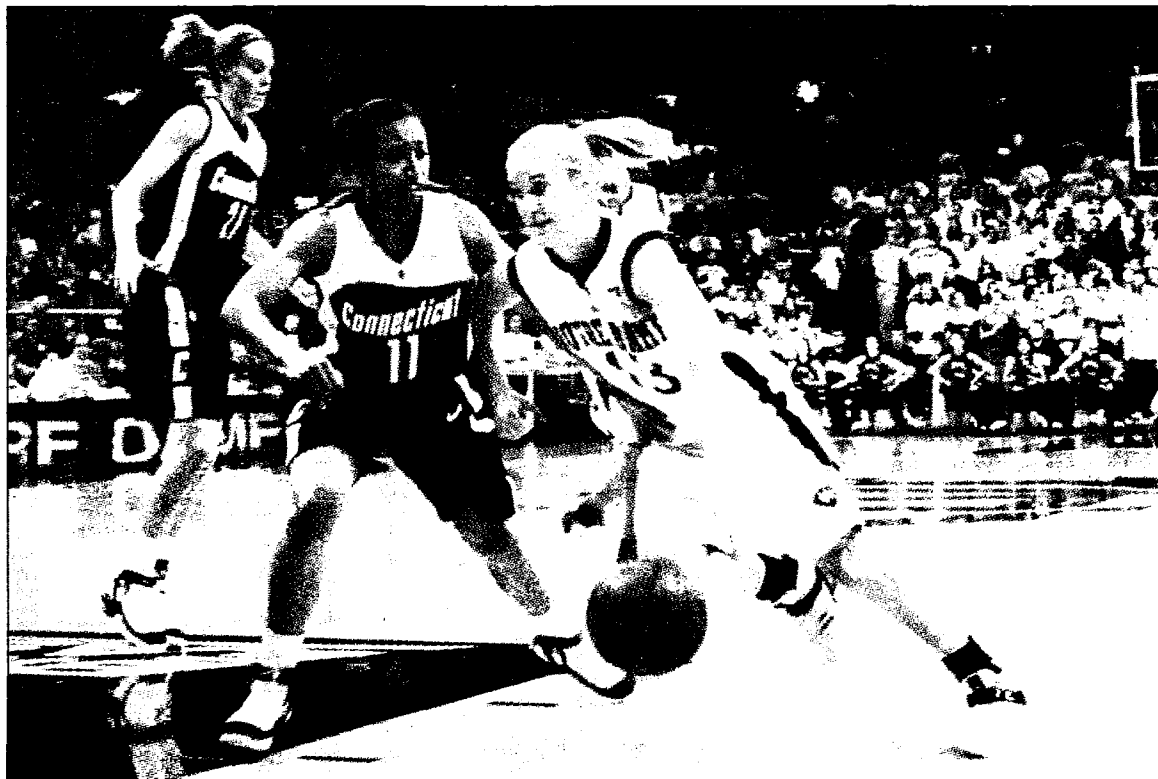
The team fed off Duffy Tuesday when the 5-foot-7 senior laid a hard foul on 6-foot-3 Panthers center Mercedes Walker on a collision that forced Walker to take a breather and turned the emotional tide of the game. The team fed off Duffy Feb. 22 when she hit 5-of-9 from 3-point range in a 22-point performance. And the team fed off her Feb. 25 when Duffy iced a win the Irish desperately needed in Cincinnati.

"I feel like the first half of games, sometimes I find myself being a little too passive out there," Duffy said. "Once the second half comes — and overtime — I've got to be able to step up my game. Whether it's knocking down free throws or getting some good shots for the team."

That she has done, and that she has taught her team.

"That's one thing I know about this team — we're going to keep fighting," Duffy said.

During Notre Dame's 75-66 overtime victory over the Bearcats, Duffy coolly sank 8-



Irish senior point guard Megan Duffy drives to the hoop against Huskies guard Ketia Swanier during Notre Dame's 79-64 loss to Connecticut Feb. 19.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

of-8 from the free throw line in the extra session and finished with 10 points in the five extra minutes.

The ice in her veins is so evident that Pittsburgh head coach Agnus Berenato refused to foul Duffy with 22 seconds remaining three days later because she thought it would be an exercise in futility.

"Why foul?" Berenato asked. "Megan makes her free throws. Why, when we played so hard for 40 minutes, let her get two more points?"

It's just that simple when Duffy's at the line late in the game — opposing coaches don't even hope the 89-percent free-throw shooter will miss.

McGraw said Duffy knows she can make the big shots and her example is the best thing for a young, struggling team like this year's Irish squad.

"It's been challenging for the players to really keep themselves up," the coach said. "I think that's where we really feed off Megan because she never loses her confidence."

And that's no matter how

hard other teams try to break her poise.

Duffy said the toughest part about scoring is the bulls-eye that rests on her jersey. After the Pittsburgh game, Berenato said the Panthers' main goal in the contest was to keep Duffy below her scoring average.

But now it's not just opposing teams keeping a close eye on Duffy — WNBA teams are scouting her as a first-round pick for the 2006 draft. During the Big East television broadcast of Notre Dame's win over Cincinnati, former Connecticut and New York Liberty star Rebecca Lobo said she expected Duffy to be a top-10 pick.

"She's got all the skills ... to lead a team," Lobo said.

Duffy said she has tried to suppress all thoughts about a future in the WNBA for now.

"The past two years, I've realized that it's a dream of mine and a goal of mine to play professional basketball," she said. "It's one of those things that you keep in the back of your mind. My senior year has kind of been a job interview for these four,

five, six months. I can't be absorbed in it too much because that's when you start playing poor and mentally get out of it."

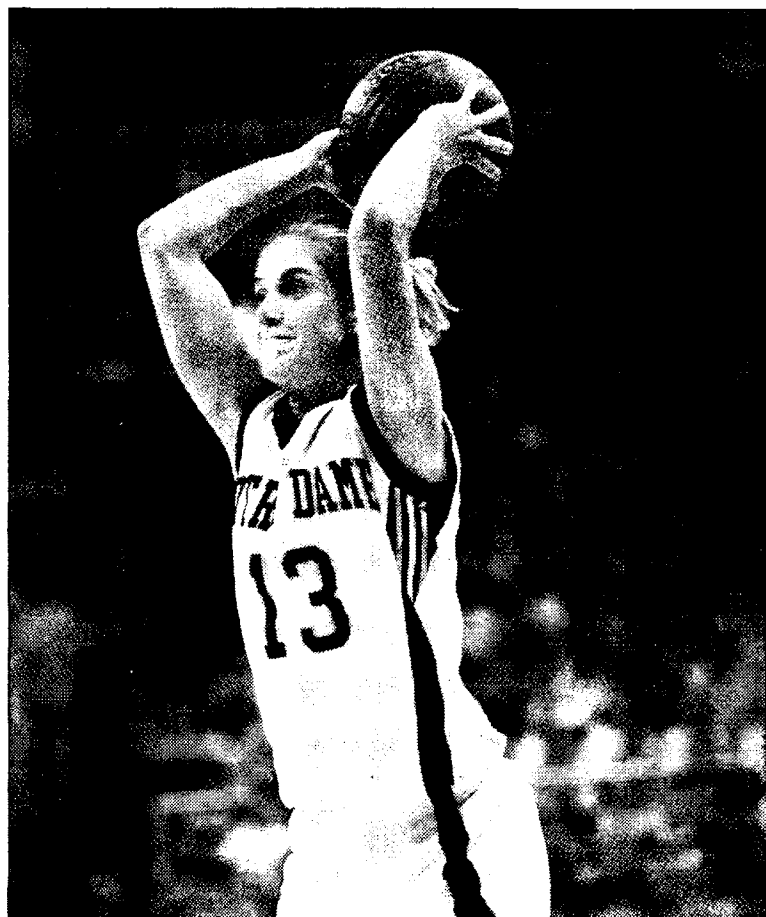
Duffy said while she is looking forward to a possible career in the WNBA, she is also trying to enjoy her experience at Notre Dame and as a co-captain of the team with fellow senior, forward Courtney LaVere.

"It's been a tremendous four years for me," she said in the press conference after Notre Dame's win on Senior Night. "I wouldn't trade it for anything. Playing for Coach McGraw, and with my teammates and with my sidekick here, Courtney, it's been a lot of fun."

Duffy ended Senior Night with the ball in her hands as Berenato's Panthers moved back and allowed her to cross halfcourt.

"I was lucky to have my hands on the ball the last few seconds," Duffy said. "It's a good way to go out."

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KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

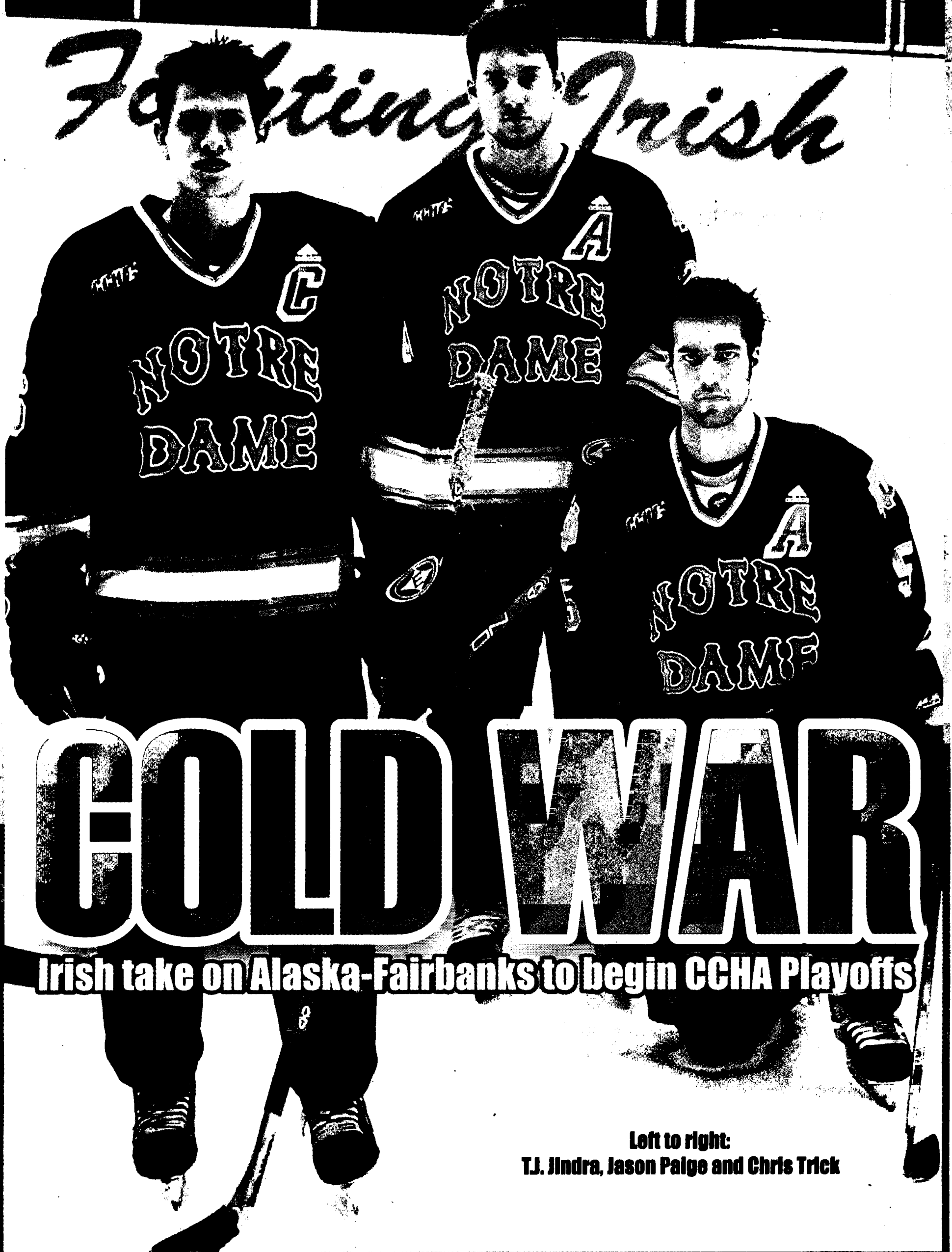
At left, Irish point guard Megan Duffy defends Pittsburgh guard Mallorie Winn Tuesday during Notre Dame's 72-65 victory on Senior Night. Right, Duffy delivers a cross-court pass against the Panthers. The senior co-captain finished the regular season averaging 15.5 points and 4.25 assists per game.

# IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 3, 2006

THE  
OBSERVER

*Fighting Irish*



## GOLD WAR

Irish take on Alaska-Fairbanks to begin CCHA Playoffs

Left to right:  
T.J. Jindra, Jason Palgo and Chris Trick



# ND meets familiar foe to open playoffs

*Irish, Nanooks faced off to finish regular season last weekend*

By CHRIS KHOREY  
Sports Writer

It's possible that Notre Dame and Alaska-Fairbanks have forgotten that other college hockey teams even exist.

The Irish and Nanooks, who squared off for two games last weekend at the Joyce Center in each team's regular season finale, will play again at the same arena in a three-game series tonight, Saturday and, if necessary, Sunday in the first round of the CCHA playoffs.

Tonight's contest will begin at 7:35 at the Joyce Center.

"It's an interesting scenario, to play four games, possibly five, in a row against one team in the same place," Fairbanks coach Tavis MacMillan said.

Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said game planning is more complicated in a rematch scenario.

"You know their strengths and weaknesses and you figure out your strengths and weaknesses against them," Jackson said. "It's easier to some extent but it can also be more difficult because you have to get into more detail."

"We have to make some adjustments based on their strengths."

The Irish and Nanooks split last weekend, with Notre Dame taking a 4-1 decision Friday and Fairbanks winning 2-1 Saturday. The two teams ended the regular season tied for eighth in the twelve-team CCHA with 26 points, but the 5-3 advantage in head-to-head goals for the Irish gave them home ice.

Although the two teams are evenly matched record-wise, they use very different styles of play. Fairbanks, whose players own a 15-20 pound weight advantage on average over the Irish, will try to force the puck into the corners and use players like 6-3, 223 pound left wing

Kyle Greentree and 6-3, 226 pound left wing Jordan Emmerson to dig it back out and create scoring chances.

Notre Dame captain and right wing T.J. Jindra said Fairbanks' aggressive and physical style of play reflects the size advantage they have over most opponents.

"They like to dump the puck and get on our defenseman, so we have to see that and we have to make adjustments for that," he said.

Jackson said after seeing the Nanooks strategy last weekend his team has been preparing in practice to counter it.

"I think we have to come up with ways to avoid allowing them to be overly physical with us," Jackson said. "If we move right and support the puck right, we can avoid hits."

Along the front line, the Irish have gotten their most production this season from left wing Mike Walsh, center Josh Sciba and right wing Erik Condra. The trio has combined for 33 goals and 80 points this season.

Last Friday, however, offensive production came from a much more unlikely source. The little used fourth line of left wing Garrett Regan, center Tony Gill and right wing Evan Rankin combined for two of Notre Dame's four goals — both in the first period. Regan scored his third career goal on assists from Rankin and Gill, and Rankin scored his eighth career goal on a pass from defenseman Wes O'Neill.

"A fourth line has to have some kind of identity to it," Jackson said. "They're not big but they have a lot of energy and they feed off each other well. Getting a couple goals out of those guys was great."

The Nanooks countered the early scoring burst from Notre Dame's fourth line by going to a three-line rotation after Rankin's goal. Jackson responded by matching his lines against those sent out by MacMillan and giving his fourth line little to no playing time for the rest of the series. Jackson said he will not employ that strategy this weekend.

"My hope is to go into the



ERIN VRANISH/The Observer

Irish defenseman Brock Sheahan skates up the ice in Notre Dame's 4-1 win over Ferris State Feb. 10. Notre Dame will face Alaska-Fairbanks in the first round of the CCHA playoffs this weekend.

weekend playing four lines, regardless of what they do," he said.

In net, Notre Dame will rely on junior Dave Brown, who has started 29 times this season and given up 2.50 goals per contest. He was named February's CCHA Player of the Month Wednesday.

Fairbanks has rotated freshman Chad Johnson and sophomore Wylie Rogers in goal for most of this season. While Johnson has the lower save percentage — 2.55 to Rogers' 2.61 — and started Friday's game against the Irish, he was pulled in favor of the sophomore after allowing three goals in the first period. Rogers also started Saturday's contest, but MacMillan did not say who will start this weekend.

Regardless, Jackson said his team will be facing quality goaltending.

"They've got a great 1-2 punch," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised to see them come back with Johnson. We can't overlook goaltending as one of their strengths."

With Junior Parents Weekend, Bengal Bouts and the Midwest Conference Fencing Championships requiring the temperature to be turned up in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse in the last two weeks, Jackson said he has been disappointed with the quality of his team's home playing surface — calling it "the worst of the season" after Friday's game.

"It has nothing to do with our personnel, it just has to do with our environment," he said. "It's not fair for [Bengal Bouts] to freeze or for us to have bad ice. It's not our rink staff's fault, they're doing the best with what they have to work with."

Warmer temperatures in an ice rink soften the ice and make it uneven, a fact that impacts the game dramatically, Jindra said.

"If it's soft, you have to protect the puck more," he said. "The chances of turning the puck over when it's in the corner are much greater. Still, both teams have to skate on the ice. It's the same ice for both teams."

Rather than make the almost

8,000 mile round trip back and forth to central Alaska, the Nanooks chose to spend the week in South Bend, practicing at the Joyce Center and communicating with their professors via email.

"Our team is more comfortable on the road than we are at home, to some extent," MacMillan said of his travel-hardened squad.

The closest CCHA competition for the Nanooks is Northern Michigan, located 3,200 miles away in Marquette, Mich. Fairbanks joined the CCHA before the 1995-96 season, competing as an independent before that. The only other Alaska school that plays Division 1 hockey, Alaska-Anchorage, competes in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA).

The Irish and Nanooks will face off at 7:35 tonight. Saturday's game and Sunday's game, if necessary, will start at 7:05.

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## First Round Series

- 8 Notre Dame 
- 9 Alaska-Fairbanks 
- 7 Ferris State 
- 10 Ohio State 
- 6 Lake Superior 
- 11 Western Michigan 
- 5 Nebraska-Omaha 
- 12 Bowling Green 

## First Round Byes

- 1 Miami of Ohio 
- 2 Michigan State 
- 3 Michigan 
- 4 Northern Michigan 

**CCHA**  
**PLAYOFFS**

## Goals per game

ND	2.59
UAF	2.38

## Goals allowed per game

ND	2.76
UAF	2.38

## Penalty kill percentage

ND	.805
UAF	.884

## Power play percentage

ND	.178
UAF	.162

# Right at home, half a world away

*Fairbanks decides to stay in South Bend between end of regular season and beginning of playoffs*

By KYLE CASSILY  
Sports Writer

This road trip has had a little more to offer Alaska-Fairbanks than its typical 3,500 mile treks. In all the Nanooks will have dealt with two consecutive weekends of cutthroat hockey, nearly two weeks in a South Bend hotel, a majority of the team falling ill and even the supernatural.

## Hunkerling down

After splitting last weekend's series with the Irish, the Nanooks decided to stay in town while waiting for this weekend's first round of the playoffs rather than return to Fairbanks. As a result the Nanooks have been forced to headquarter themselves out of the local Jameson Inn since Feb. 22.

"Everyone likes being around each other," sophomore left wing Kyle Greentree said of the team being stuck in a hotel for long periods of time. "We'd rather be at home, but we're pretty comfortable on the road. In Alaska we travel a lot and

stuff, so it's not much of a problem."

Alaska-Fairbanks head coach Tavis MacMillan has had no trouble keeping his team from suffering cabin fever. The squad has followed a set schedule filled with events to pass time.

The Nanooks spend every morning practicing in the Joyce Center in preparation for the Irish this weekend. Lunch, strength training, and a two-hour study session occupy a majority of the team's afternoon until dinner. The past few nights the team has spent at the mall or lounging around the hotel.

The team even took a road trip within a road trip on Wednesday night when they watched the Chicago Blackhawks battle the Nashville Predators at Chicago's United Center.

As the team gets closer to game day however, video sessions and pre-game rituals will start to come into play more and more.

"Hockey-wise it's not bad at all," MacMillan said of the team's situation. "I get to con-

centrate on hockey here. For our guys it's hockey, hockey, hockey, which is a great environment for me to be in. On the flipside I don't get the other part — the big part of my life — which is my family."

## Wearing out

The greatest challenge for the Nanooks so far this trip has been illness. A day or two after last weekend's series wrapped up, the Alaskans started to fall one by one to an upper respiratory ailment. MacMillan estimates that three-quarters of his team has been stricken by the bug.

"You're in a hotel and it's all confined, so it's tough to get away from one another," MacMillan said. "You get sick — everybody gets sick. So the challenge for us right now is trying to get healthy by game time."

Greentree acknowledged that hotel life has contributed to the team's ailing state, but he is fully confident it will have no effect on this weekend's play.

"It happens," he said. "Coming into the playoffs we're going to have to suck it up."

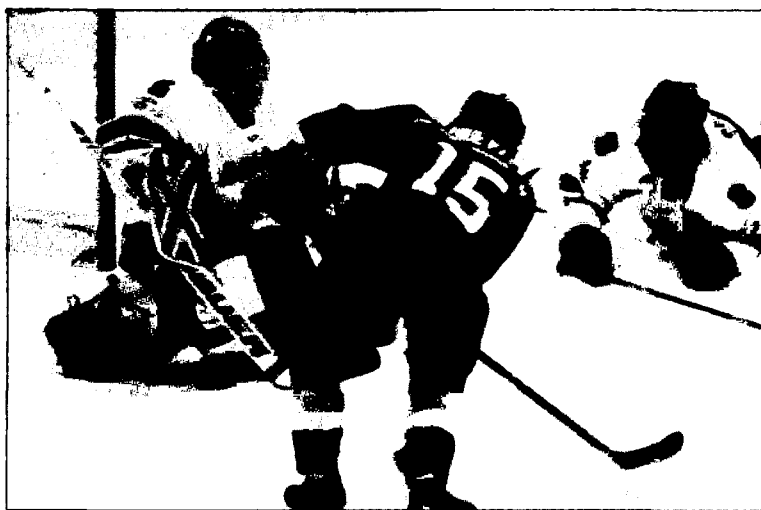
## Hitting the books

It's easy to forget amid the playoff buzz and long trips that the Nanooks are not just hockey players, but full-time college students.

In order to stay up on their classes, the team has instituted study sessions where the players must catch up on schoolwork.

Prior to leaving for South Bend, MacMillan conducted a grade check on his players. The results were positive, only five C's in 125 course grades.

"They take a lot of pride in their academics," MacMillan said of his players. "They're working hard — they're staying in communication with professors. The Internet is a powerful tool now. Academically years ago this would have been a big problem, but nowadays with computer and e-mail you can stay up on stuff."



Alaska-Fairbanks' Jason Grinevitch readies to shoot against Michigan State goaltender Dominic Vicari in the third-place game of last year's CCHA playoffs March 19, 2005.

## Ghostbusters

The hotel has even provided the Nanooks with several deviant challenges of its own. Rumors have flown around the team that several murders took place in Rm. 307 of the Jameson Inn — a room inhabited by several Alaska players.

"There's some weird things that have been going on," Greentree said. "The TV would just pop on by itself and doors would fly open. I'm just glad I'm not staying in that room. Geez, I'd be scared s--- less ya know."

The Nanooks have not kept themselves confined to the Joyce Center ice facilities while on campus. Several players have wandered around campus checking out landmarks and getting a feel for college life here at Notre Dame.

"It's really mild here, it's not cold at all," Greentree said of South Bend's climate. "We got to check out the football stadium. We just kind of looked in, took a quick peak. We cruised around a bit, we saw the library. We've got an overall glimpse of everything and it's pretty cool."

While his players checked out Touchdown Jesus, MacMillan turned a trained eye toward the

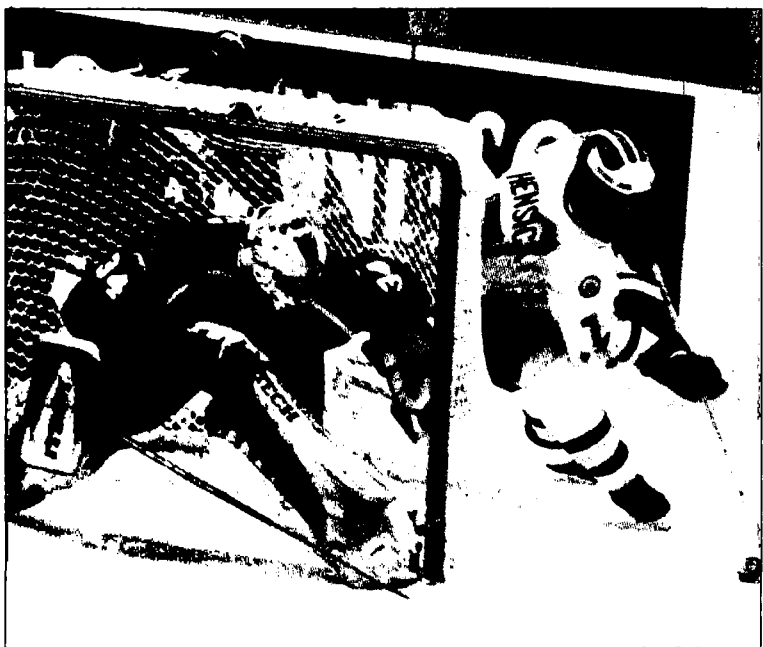
Joyce Center ice surface. He found it comparable to the Carlson Center ice his Nanooks play on in Fairbanks due to the lack of hot spots along the boards. Pucks hit against the Joyce Center boards do not ricochet wildly, as is often found in many other arenas.

"The corners don't come as fast at you as in Michigan State or Bowling Green," MacMillan said. "They're really rounded. The puck is in the corner and you're already on top of the net when you get to the corner the way they round [in MSU and BG]. But here the corners are a lot deeper, which is more similar to what we have."

But when it all comes down to it — it's all about the hockey. And that is what MacMillan, Greentree and the rest of the Nanooks take as the greatest benefit of this 3,500 mile trip.

"When we're back in Fairbanks, not only the players but also us coaches get pulled in so many different directions with people's wants and needs," MacMillan said. "Being at this place and being at that place for meetings. So from a pure hockey standpoint — this is as good as it gets for us."

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Michigan's T.J. Hensick attempts a wraparound on Alaska-Fairbanks goaltender Wylie Rogers in the third period of the CCHA semifinals March 18, 2005. Michigan won 3-1.

# Jackson, team primed to make deep playoff push

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Jeff Jackson era.

For those of you unfamiliar with the first-year Irish head hockey coach and his team, these next few weeks will be a crash course. Jump on the bandwagon now before it's too late — this Notre Dame hockey team is going places.



Kyle Cassily  
Sports Writer

Jackson brings a pedigree of regular and postseason success to an Irish team that has made only one NCAA tournament appearance. Inside College Hockey lists him as one of the 16 greatest college hockey coaches of all-time, one of only five active coaches — including Michigan's Red Berenson.

He won two national championships as head coach of the

Lake Superior State Lakers in 1992 and 1994. He barely lost out on a third in 1993 to Maine's Jim Montgomery when Montgomery put on one of the top offensive performances ever by a college player — scoring three goals in the third period to erase a two-goal Maine deficit. Montgomery now dons a headset for Jackson's Irish as an assistant coach.

Ask any long-term college hockey fan about Montgomery's 1993 Black Bears and you will get a look of disgust. They were that good.

And the former Black Bear is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the crack Notre Dame coaching staff Jackson has assembled. Associate head coach Paul Pooley brings years of experience as head coach of Providence College and as an All-American at Ohio State. Thirteen-year Irish veteran assistant coach Andy Slaggert continues to bring in strong

recruits year after year.

This crew looks to be in for the long-term overhaul of an Irish club coming off a miserable five-win season. They have taken what was viewed as a rebuilding year and transformed Notre Dame into a serious contender for the CCHA title.

A serious contender when the team sits only in eighth-place in the league standings? Without a doubt.

Jackson has reversed last year's anemic offense. Notre Dame's top goal scorer in 2004-05 had six tallies. There are seven Irish players with six or more goals this season. Last year Cory McLean led the team with 22 points — this season there are five players with 22 or more points. Team goal production has increased by 32 percent overall from last

season and the power play unit is ranked fifth in the CCHA in successful conversions.

Dave Brown has been a wall between the pipes since December, playing in 25 out of the last 26 games and posts a 2.50 goals against average for the season.

Irish blueliners have surrendered only 17 goals in the last 10 games, four of which came in a 7-4 defeat of Bowling Green.

A painfully slow start to the season — the Irish initially posted a 1-5 record — has given way to a 10-9-3 tally since Dec. 2. In that span Notre Dame has faced four teams currently in the national top-20 and a total of six opponents were ranked when they faced the Irish.

The first roadblock in the way of an Irish CCHA playoff

run is the polar bear-sized Nanooks of Alaska-Fairbanks. On average the Nanooks outweigh the Irish by seven to eight pounds per man and are 1.4 years older. This age difference may seem negligible until one factors in that the Nanooks have only six juniors and seniors. The Irish have 14 upperclassmen.

Few have traveled the CCHA playoff road more successfully in the past than Jackson. He's finely tuned his squad to handle the rigors of a physical Nanook squad and the disciplined Irish appear poised to corral Fairbanks for a second round bid.

Jackson knows how to win and if he ever needs a reminder of how it feels to lose — he just has to look down the bench at Montgomery.

*The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.*

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*Jackson brings a pedigree of regular and postseason success to an Irish team that has made only one NCAA tournament appearance.*

# Physical play a hallmark of previous matchups

4-1 ND win Feb. 25  
featured 17 penalties

By CHRIS KHOREY  
Sports Writer

With 3.7 seconds left in Notre Dame's 4-1 victory over Alaska-Fairbanks Friday, as fans stood up to leave, an altercation broke out near the Nanooks goal. Almost every player on the ice was seemingly nearby and, while players and coaches from both teams said

they couldn't see what happened, the referees called five penalties on the play — including a game misconduct on Irish defenseman Chris Trick. The near-brawl at the end of the game was the result of 60 minutes of hard hitting and emotional play that typified the two-game, season-ending Notre Dame-Alaska-Fairbanks series and should return when the Irish and Nanooks square off again to open the CCHA playoffs. "Familiarity does breed contempt," Irish head coach

Jeff Jackson said. "There's a reason that's a quote. But if we let that contempt come before our ultimate goal, it's going to hurt us. We can't take cheap shots or we'll be killing penalties and giving up goals. The same is true for them." Friday's game featured 17 penalties and 45 penalty minutes, including 21 minutes handed out for the skirmish at the end of the game. No one was immune from the rough play, as Notre Dame goalie Dave Brown was knocked into his own net sev-

eral times. "[The Fairbanks players] told me all game they would be gunning for me," Brown said. "I'm not afraid of anybody." Saturday's 2-1 Nanooks win was significantly cleaner, with the two teams combining for just four penalties, but the importance of the contest could be seen on the ice nonetheless. "Last weekend was like a playoff weekend for us and it was like a playoff weekend for them," Notre Dame captain T.J. Jindra said. "If anything, what it's like is that we have two playoff weekends in a row."

Both coaches took their teams to task after Friday's contest, imploring them to focus their emotion and energy on scoring and not on hitting opposing players. "We have a young team and the guys

have some energy. ... They have to learn to channel it," Fairbanks coach Tavis MacMillan said. Jackson said the importance of the contests made it especially key to keep penalties to a minimum. "There's too much on the line," he said. "There's too much at stake to take stupid penalties."

Jackson also said it is crucial for the Irish to avoid overdoing the physical play because the Nanooks are bigger at most positions. "They average 10-15 pounds per man more than our team," he said.

MacMillan said he knows the Nanooks have a size advantage over most of their opponents and that he does game plan accordingly, but that he would never condone intimidation or dirty play. "We're a big team," he said. "But I don't like stuff after the whistle. I like spirit, I like energy. You've got to get into the game, be [passionate] and just play hockey."

Despite amassing 27 penalty minutes as a team in Friday's victory, the Irish are still the second-least penalized team in the CCHA, averaging just 16:18 of penalty time per game.

Fairbanks is ninth in the twelve-team league, averaging 22:06 per game.

Brian Aaron was the referee for both Friday and Saturday's games, assisted by John Philo and Mark DesRosiers. Referees for this weekend's playoff series have yet to be announced.

Contact Chris Khorey at [ckhorey@nd.edu](mailto:ckhorey@nd.edu).

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Notre Dame forward Michael Bartlett fights for the puck with a Ferris State player in a 4-1 Irish win Feb. 10. Tough play from Bartlett and others will be key against the physical Nanooks.

ERIN VRANISH/The Observer

## HEAD TO HEAD

	COACHING	GOALTENDING	DEFENSE	FORWARDS	SPECIAL TEAMS	INTANGIBLES
NOTRE DAME	In his first season at the helm of the Irish, Jackson has righted a ship that appeared to be sinking just a year ago. He has assembled a crack group of coaches that complement each other well.	Junior Dave Brown has held down the fort all year with a goals against average of 2.50 in CCHA play. He struggled the first half of the season but since has been lights out. Freshman Jordan Pearce has proved an effective backup.	Irish blueliners have proved consistent game after game. Notre Dame has surrendered just 2.59 goals per game thanks to solid play from Brock Sheahan, Noah Babin, Chris Trick, and Wes O'Neill.	Senior Mike Walsh, junior Josh Sciba, and freshman Erik Condra have combined for 80 points this year. All four lines can score, as evidenced by goals by fourth-liners Evan Rankin and Garret Regan on Friday against the Nanooks.	The Irish power play ranks No. 5 in the CCHA, but the penalty killing has been sieve-like. Notre Dame averages the second fewest penalty minutes per game in the conference, so its penalty killers are rarely thrown into the fire.	The Irish will be playing their third straight home game, which isn't the advantage that it would be if Fairbanks had to travel. Notre Dame is 4-1-1 in their last six games and has been playing well since Christmas.
ALASKA-FAIRBANKS	MacMillan, in his second year at Fairbanks, has crafted a strong defensive team that only allowed 2.82 goals per game this season. His Nanooks have fought top teams like Michigan and Miami to a standstill all year long.	Freshman Chad Johnson and sophomore Wylie Rogers have split time for most of the season and have played well. Johnson started Friday's contest with Notre Dame, but was pulled after allowing three first period goals.	Fairbanks' style of play favors a defensive system, and its intimidating size backs it up. After surrendering three goals to the Irish in the first period Friday, the Nanooks allowed just two in the next five periods combined.	Kyle Greentree and Curtis Fraser are both threats to hit hard and score often. However the Nanooks are dead last in goals per game in the CCHA at 2.38. A red hot Dave Brown will further frustrate their anemic offense.	The Nanooks have the league's best penalty kill due to their physical style, but their power play has struggled to score, converting just 16 percent of their opportunities. Since the Irish aren't penalized very often, it may not matter.	The good news is the Nanooks decided to stay in South Bend between weekend serieses. The bad news is they have lived in a hotel for two weeks, a rash of illness tore through the team and they suspect one of their hotel rooms is haunted.
ANALYSIS	Despite Macmillan's success, you can't argue with Jackson's pedigree. Two national championships in three appearances with Lake Superior State don't lie. He has what it takes to lead the Irish to the national elite.	Fairbanks' two headed monster has been effective but inconsistent this year. As a junior, Brown has more experience, and has been standing on his head in recent weeks. He should shut down the Nanooks.	Both teams have solid bluelines, but Fairbanks' larger players give them the edge. Their size allows them to win most battles in the corners and their reach makes poke checks more effective.	The Irish have the clear offensive advantage in an otherwise defensive game. Expect low-scoring contests to rule the weekend and Irish forwards to face an uphill battle against the Nanook defense.	Both teams excel in one area and struggle in the other. The Irish ranked first in the CCHA in the power play until they went 0-for-6 against the Nanooks' stone wall penalty kill last weekend and dropped all the way to fifth.	The Irish are riding a hot streak and playing at home, while the Nanooks are just glad not to be on an airplane. None of the Irish players reports being sick, and rowdy crowds at the Joyce Center will give Notre Dame an added edge.



# IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 3, 2006

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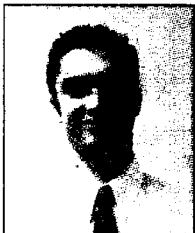
## NEVER BLACK DOWN

IRISH GUARD CHRIS QUINN, CENTER, AND FORWARDS RICK CORNETT, LEFT, AND TORIN FRANCIS HAVE LED THE IRISH THROUGH THEIR TOUGH SEASON. BUT A WIN SATURDAY AGAINST DEPAUL WILL PUT THEM IN THE BIG EAST TOURNAMENT.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRAHAM EBETSCH AND PHIL HUDELSON/THE OBSERVER

# Seniors deserve Saturday's opportunity

Call them painfully unlucky. Call them underachievers. Be fed up with Notre Dame men's basketball. But then also recognize that Notre Dame — believe it or not — is on the verge of accomplishing what it set out to do at the beginning of the season.



Pat Leonard  
Sports Writer

That's right, the Irish — the team with five conference wins and a knack for losing the close one — will qualify for the Big East tournament with a win over DePaul Saturday.

Of course, that's easy to say, looking at the Blue Demons' lowly conference record. It's more difficult to do, remembering Notre Dame's 73-67 loss to DePaul at Allstate Arena Jan. 7.

But the Irish have the advantage of playing where they'd rather be (at home), against a lower-level conference team, in an atmosphere that will recognize, honor and celebrate the careers of three of its biggest impact players.

Chris Quinn, Torin Francis and Rick Cornett all have waited for this opportunity. That's not to say their dream heading into college was to earn a conference tournament berth. Three years ago, that dream was nearly an automatic reality for Irish players.

But it wasn't a given coming into this season that this team

would be able to reach Madison Square Garden in one piece — or get there at all. In fact, by oftentimes playing lazy defense, surrendering offensive rebounds and failing to execute down the stretch of games, the Irish seemed likely not to qualify as the conference schedule progressed.

But this team needed time to develop.

Plagued by poor on-floor leadership last season and injury in the previous one, Notre Dame had to regroup as it entered 2005-06. Quinn got the ball and the responsibility, and he responded by becoming one of the Big East's top guards while earning Academic All-American honors from ESPN The Magazine, among other accolades.

Quinn never had to take the most important shots and the final drives when Chris Thomas was at Notre Dame. Francis hasn't fully returned to his former self since having back surgery in 2004, though he's certainly made progress. And Cornett, well, the backup forward never had an opportunity — for reasons still unknown — to showcase his talent until this season.

It trickles down to the younger guys.

Russell Carter, who some critics are calling the Big East's most improved player, took time to grow into his role and did not have the opportunity last season because Jordan Cornette was too busy gunning 3-pointers in his stead.

Colin Falls has remained consistent as a shooter, but his

game — like most shooters — thrives on the chemistry of the guys he plays with. If they play together enough as a group, basketball players begin recognizing where each other wants the ball and where they'll be in certain situations.

But none of this really clicked, it could be argued, until Notre Dame's 102-91 romp of Seton Hall Feb. 18. Notre Dame's offense flowed. Baskets were happening so quickly, Pirates coach Louis Orr couldn't believe it. And Cornett could be seen throwing down a furious two-handed dunk through a hard foul late in the second half, descending to the floor and staring down his defender, screaming in frustration and exuberance over the dominating performance his team had just set forth.

This begs a question: where has that been all year — that passion and efficiency. Why hasn't Notre Dame shown it until so late, and when it shows that fire, only in spurts?

Two reasons. Because Notre Dame is not as athletic as most of its Big East opponents, and because the Irish fail to adjust to game situations.

In the Seton Hall game, the reason Notre Dame won so convincingly was that Brey appeared to run more set plays, sending back-to-back sets with slight variations that confused the Pirates defense and made the Irish look like a firing squad. That translated into fewer transition opportunities for Seton Hall, and that was the game.



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish guard Chris Quinn, center, lays on the ground after a hard foul in an 80-72 loss to Marquette Feb. 25.

But Notre Dame hasn't stuck to that formula. It has played 'not to lose' in many games, forced then into close games as the clock winds down. And the Irish then put the ball in the hands of Quinn who — while fully capable of breaking down most defenders one-on-one — simply has not had the practice prior to this season of being the man at Notre Dame.

But he has become just that, illustrated most recently by his willingness to involve others in the victory over Providence Wednesday that put the Irish in this position. And Francis and Cornett have joined Quinn in the team's final push.

That is how this team should and will finish — behind its seniors, its captains. Because regardless of how many close games they've lost or final plays they've seen fall short, these guys are starting to get it.

They deserve this final chance for redemption — all three of them — however simple and insignificant a conference tournament berth would seem.

*The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.*

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## Murphy epitomizes the Notre Dame student-athlete

By BOBBY GRIFFIN  
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame senior Chris Murphy has witnessed events from a different perspective than his teammates during his two-year career with the Irish.

Murphy was a member of the 2004-05 team that missed the NCAA Tournament and suffered a tough first-round NIT loss to Holy Cross. The Irish senior returned this year for his final season to watch Notre Dame lose a number of close games and fight for a spot in the Big East tournament.

"[You want to] see Chris Quinn get a couple wins, [and] see those guys who are seniors get wins," Murphy said. "And even last year we had so much talent, but we never really put it together. It was hard to sit back and watch all that ... it's almost worse not playing."

The rarely used walk-on forward is a member of the Irish basketball team. He wakes up for practice with his teammates, suits up for games with his teammates and reports to summer workouts with his teammates. The only difference is, once the game begins, Murphy's role virtually ends.

"I was treated just like a scholarship guy at practice," Murphy said. "The only difference is they play in the games, and I don't."

"Everyone wants their shot, but I know my role and I don't expect anything."

Murphy did not always lead this life at Notre Dame. The



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Irish forward Chris Murphy, No. 24, huddles up with teammates Zach Hillesland, Luke Zeller, back right, and Rob Kurz at the end of Notre Dame's 90-63 win over Rutgers Feb. 8.

Irish senior was a student, and nothing more, for his first two years in South Bend.

But when he made the basketball team before his junior year, Murphy also became a college athlete. And while his teammates have simultaneously handled both lives during their careers at Notre Dame, Murphy has experienced both lives at separate times.

"The balance between that is hard sometimes," Murphy said. "I had to balance the friend-

ships I had made with my teammates and the friendships I had made before I was on the team.

"Before I looked at athletics differently, now I look at normal students [differently] — I have both perspectives and I think that's helped out a lot and made it a lot better here."

Lafayette College and other East coast Patriot league schools recruited Murphy out of Benet Academy in Downers Grove, Ill. But the senior forward said he knew he wouldn't

play professionally, and he made the choice to go to Notre Dame.

"I realized I was kind of burned out after basketball my senior year," Murphy said.

So for two years, Murphy was a normal undergraduate. But he said he began to miss playing as time passed and decided to try out for the team after his sophomore year.

Murphy understands he is in a different position than his teammates and knows the

extent to which he can affect the Irish. Murphy works hard in practice but said he likes to stay quiet during games because there is not much he can say.

But when Murphy shows up to practice, he said he works just as hard as his teammates knowing he will likely not be playing in the next game.

Murphy also understands when he goes home, he returns to his life as a student. Where some of his teammates might live together, Murphy signed the lease for his current house sophomore year with his non-basketball friends.

"There were times this summer where some of my roommates were here and I would get up at five to work out and they would still be up from the night before," Murphy said with a smile. "That happened a couple times."

So when Notre Dame fights for its postseason life Saturday against DePaul, Murphy will assume his customary role on the bench.

He said he wonders how college would be different if he had played at a school where he received more playing time, but Murphy has enjoyed his time at Notre Dame regardless of minutes.

"I don't regret coming to Notre Dame at all," Murphy said. "I'm going to graduate with a degree at Notre Dame, and I think I'll do all right with a career, so I'm not complaining too much."

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# Misleading point

*Irish guard Chris Quinn looks like a regular student but has become a top Big East threat*

By **BOBBY GRIFFIN**  
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame senior point guard Chris Quinn emerged from the locker room Monday ready to answer questions about the most important week of his senior season — maybe of his entire Irish career — minutes after teammates Russell Carter and Kyle McAlarney walked through the lobby.

Carter was wearing a large T-shirt, loose basketball shorts and diamond earrings. McAlarney had on an oversized sweatshirt and large fleece pants — typical outfits for college basketball players.

But Quinn looked nothing like the second-leading scorer in arguably the best conference in the country. The unassuming guard, wearing a black fleece, jeans and running shoes, looked more like an economics major than a top Big East basketball player.

That's part of what makes Quinn such an interesting story. Three years ago, he was an unrecognizable freshman playing behind guards Chris Thomas and Matt Carroll. Fast-forward to today, and his coach is mentioning his name with every basketball player's three favorite letters — NBA.

But Quinn's senior year has not had a storybook script. The Irish guard has been responsible for leading Notre Dame through a difficult season in which it has lost 10 conference games by a combined 35 points.

"[Quinn is] really a stable guy," Irish coach Mike Brey said Monday before practice. "He's always handled his business, he's been amazingly resilient [and] I think he's been hardened — and I mean that in a positive light — by experiences."

And while Notre Dame has struggled closing out tough games, some of Quinn's success hasn't been fully appreciated.

Quinn has solidified himself as one of the best players in the Big East, if not the country. His 21.2 points per Big East game puts him second in a league full of future NBA prospects.

But it's Quinn's willingness to lead Notre Dame on the floor that remains his biggest asset. Nobody hates losing more than Quinn, but nobody also is more willing to accept the responsibility.

## Average college student

McAlarney remembers meeting Quinn during summer practice. He had considered Quinn a shooting guard while watching him on television last season and was shocked to see his leadership abilities during workouts.

"When I came here, I was like, 'Wow this kid is legit, he's the real deal,'" McAlarney said. "A lot of people underestimate him every game, but now I think the country knows he's one of the best guards in the country."

McAlarney's initial feeling was not unique. Quinn has established himself as a top player in the Big East this season, but it took three years for national audiences to recognize his on-court ability.

Much of this is due to his slender, inconspicuous appearance — one atypical of an elite college basketball player. But that's exactly what Quinn has become.

Heading into Wednesday's game at Providence, Quinn was among the top five in the Big East in seven major statistical categories — minutes played (first), points per game (second), assists (second), 3-point field goal percentage (second), free-throw percentage (third), assist/turnover ratio (fifth) and 3-point field goals made (fifth).

And Quinn's average build has allowed his opponents to overlook his abilities in the past. But as this season has progressed, opposing coaches are beginning to take notice of

the Irish captain.

He doesn't rely much on flashy moves but has the awareness and athleticism to compensate for his lack of flair. He also has shown an ability to get his teammates involved all season. His 6.0 assists per game is second-best in the Big East by nearly a full point margin.

"I think he's going to be underestimated for his entire career, because you look at him and he looks like a normal college student," McAlarney said. "He has some deceptive quickness about him [and] he just goes by you."

Quinn's performance this year has put him in an unfamiliar position. After spending three seasons in a secondary role, he is now in the national spotlight.

He was always confident in his ability (he said he thinks he's one of the best guards in the country) but is still shocked when he is viewed differently than his peers.

"I don't think of myself as a celebrity — I think of myself as a regular guy like most people," Quinn said.

Quinn said it feels like yesterday he admired not only professional and college players but also varsity high school players. It would be easy for a player of Quinn's caliber to develop an ego, but the senior guard has maintained a sense of humility and is overwhelmed by the attention he receives.

"It means a lot to me ... to be looked up to by people," Quinn said. "When I was younger, I always looked up to people, as well. As I've grown and matured, now I have other people looking up to me the way I looked up to other people — it's pretty cool."

## Not-so-average future

But even though Quinn looks more like a typical Notre Dame student than a potential first team All-Big East player, his appearance belies his career path. While Quinn is still adjusting to the spotlight, he might have more attention ahead of him.

"He has made himself an NBA prospect, clearly with the feedback I've gotten with the year he's having," Brey said Monday before practice.

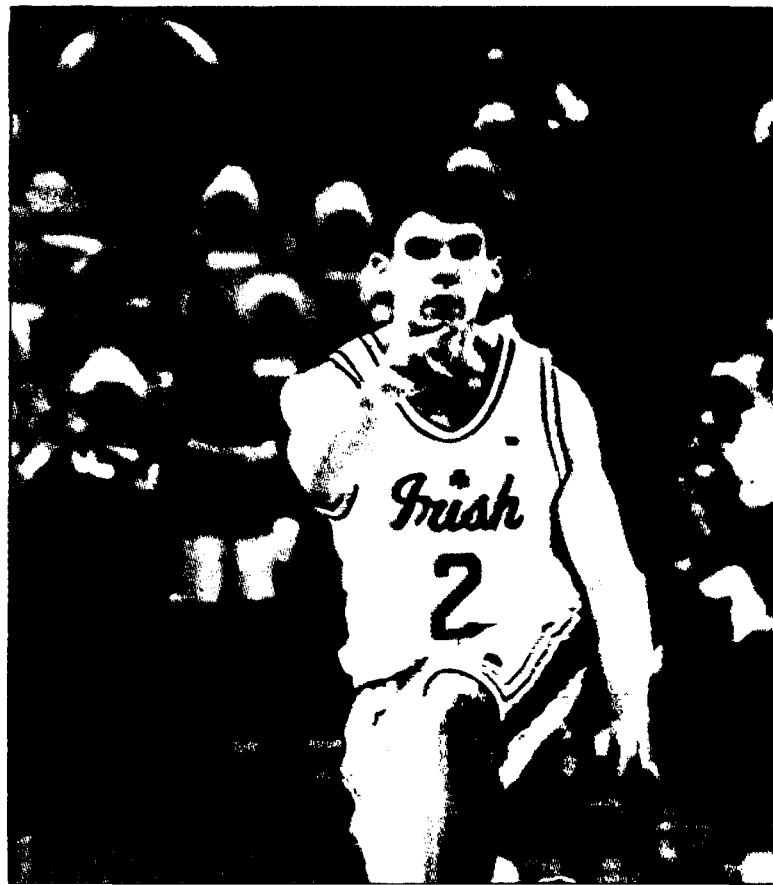
Brey said he has received calls expressing interest in the senior guard — a situation few anticipated.

"When we signed him, nobody would have projected [he would be an NBA player]," Brey said. "As a matter of fact, I don't think many people would have projected that in July, or even October or November. But there's been a buzz about him, and I'm happy."

That sudden buzz might seem peculiar given Notre Dame's 5-10 conference record this season. But Quinn has earned respect for putting the team on his back, accepting responsibility for Irish losses and recording impressive individual numbers in the process.

"It's easy to be captain of a team that's 15-7 and cruising along," Brey said. "Not only do we ask a lot of him on the floor, [but] he's had a lot of demands as a captain and a leader."

Brey said he doesn't know where Quinn ranks nationally



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

**Irish guard Chris Quinn finds a teammate in a 90-63 Notre Dame victory over Rutgers Feb. 8.**

among top players — or even top point guards — but the coach said his captain would receive attention from NBA organizations once the season ends.

Quinn does not speculate where he will be playing professional basketball in the future, but he does express an interest to play somewhere — whether it's in America or Europe.

"I'm definitely looking forward to playing professional basketball somewhere next year," Quinn said. "At this point, I'm just focusing on finishing out my senior year in the best way possible, and then after the season, I'll take a step back and see where I fit."

"Personally, I think I'm right up there with anybody."

Quinn routinely speaks with old Notre Dame players who have gone on to professional careers both in the NBA and Europe. He gets feedback from players like Carroll (NBA, Charlotte Bobcats) and Thomas (Fabriano, Italy). Just last weekend, Thomas stayed at Quinn's house after the Marquette game.

"All those guys really help me a lot," Quinn said. "Just seeing the different things that are out there and the different ways of going about it [helps]."

## Focused on the present

Before Quinn starts worrying about his future career in professional basketball, he is responsible for leading the Irish in their final game of the season Saturday against DePaul.

"He certainly isn't thinking about [next year]," Brey said. "He'd like to maneuver this group his senior year into some postseason stuff."

Quinn didn't envision such a tough final stretch. Brey said getting to the Big East tournament was going to be a challenge, but Quinn said he expected to make it to New York from the beginning.

"It has been a tough year," Quinn said. "It hasn't gone exactly the way we [had]

planned it at the beginning of the year. There have been a lot of close games."

"As a senior, it's not the way you want to go out, but you can't change it now."

But while Quinn can't change the past, he does have control over what is left of this season. When Quinn has played well, Notre Dame has put itself in the best position to win games (Quinn is averaging 22.4 points in five league wins).

Quinn's teammates have complete faith in their starting point guard and his ability to lead Notre Dame down this tough final stretch. He scored 16 points in the second half against Providence Wednesday to keep the Irish from losing the must-win game.

"[We] as a team, we've been through a lot," McAlarney said. "Just watching [Quinn] deal with it the right way helps the team."

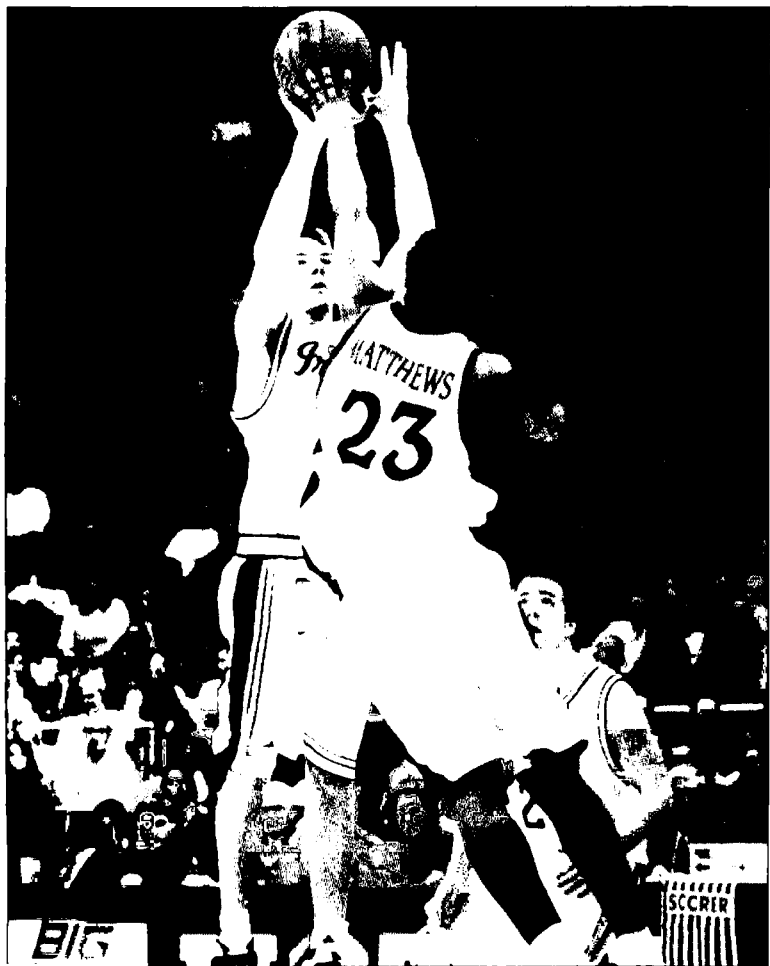
So while Quinn might feel nostalgic with his college career winding down, he knows he must remain focused and not think about past mistakes. Quinn said it upsets him to think he might only play in one NCAA Tournament — his freshman year, the Irish advanced to the Sweet 16 — though he also said he'd drive himself crazy if he got carried away with "what-ifs."

But there is one clear what-if Quinn is focused on. Beating the Blue Demons would give the Irish a Big East tournament berth and would allow Notre Dame to continue its season. A loss would bring the end of Quinn's collegiate career.

So once again, it's up to Quinn. The season might come down to another game situation. And then the Irish guard will have to exchange his black North Face for his black jersey, transforming from a standard college student to a standout college athlete.

But Quinn is used to that role. Only this year, people are starting to take notice.

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GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

**Notre Dame guard Chris Quinn shoots over Marquette guard Wesley Matthews in an 80-72 Irish loss Saturday.**



# The future can wait

*Irish forwards Torin Francis and Rick Cornett have blurry destinies but a common current goal*

By PAT LEONARD  
Sports Writer

Torin Francis' NBA pre-draft camp T-shirt hangs ironically on his 6-foot-11, 252-pound frame as he walks casually into the Joyce Center arena on a Monday afternoon.

The Notre Dame senior has two days before he must put his team on his back — a back that underwent surgery two years ago — and push them to the Big East tournament.

But Francis also has more on his mind than the average college senior handles.

He yearns for success, as he experienced his freshman season in a Sweet 16 appearance. He remembers setback and defeat, not only in recent postseason tournaments but also in individual growth.

Back surgery at the end of his sophomore season, a humbling and brief flirtation with the NBA Draft last spring and a return to South Bend have made the senior Irish forward who he is — a role player who averages a low career double-double (11.1 points, 10 rebounds) and has a chance to play professionally, no more and no less.

And with personal goals and team aspirations weighing equally heavy on his mind, Notre Dame's senior forward and tri-captain realizes his up-and-down college basketball career is nearing its conclusion.

"I haven't had the season I wanted to for myself personally," Francis said Monday before practice of 2005-06, "but it's not too late. We still have a couple games left, and there's still time."

And there's one of Francis' best friends, who has become his brother in quiet frustration, visible maturity and urgent senior year play.

Rick Cornett, known by many as the 'other' Notre Dame senior forward, stands now side-by-side with Francis as the Irish enter Saturday needing one more win to earn a Big East tournament berth.

And that's significant because, up until this year, it was always one or the other.

Don't misunderstand. They're great friends. They even made sure to have similarly light class loads their final semester.

"Our schedules kind of match up as far as having one or two classes now," Cornett said Monday. "We worked hard from the beginning just to get all our work out of the way."

Schoolwork, that is. Now, the two must continue to battle each other in practice while fending off the opposition in crucial games, on a mission to prove their worth as individual players and their team's worth as a legitimate Big East contender.

"A little bit of my feeling is, if we're gonna do this New York City thing, we should put it in their hands," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said of his two senior big men Feb. 23. "Either get us there or [don't]."

Francis and Cornett have been frustrated for different reasons and have succeeded at different times, but as a pair, they have become dual weapons on the court (who knew?) and represen-

tatives of a relentless Notre Dame team.

## From background to forefront

Cornett has played an average of 10.2 minutes per game in his four years as Francis' backup, his assumed role before this season.

Beginning at the end of last season and continuing into 2005-06, Cornett has played not only in place of, but alongside of, Francis. And Notre Dame has reaped obvious benefits when Cornett plays more minutes.

He's averaging nearly 13 minutes per game now. And this season, in the 13 games in which Cornett has logged 14 or more minutes, the Irish have averaged 5.8 more points per game (82.5) than they have for the season's duration (76.7). They also have given up 2.8 more points per game than they do without his increased presence, but on a team that values outscoring opponents with a highly efficient offense, Cornett has stood out this season as a valuable asset.

That's the good news. But Cornett, who hails from Country Club Hills, Ill., has not played as much throughout his career — or this season — as he would have liked.

"Any competitor wants to be on the court and [to] play," Cornett said. "I just really have had to accept my role here and realize that some games I may play a lot, some games I may not, and not be upset about it but just keep working hard. Because when ... they call me to go in there, I have to be ready to contribute and do well."

Questions remain as to why Notre Dame never applied the red-shirt tag to Cornett in order to retain a year of eligibility during seasons in which he saw minimal action. Brey promises the staff deliberated long and hard on the issue and concluded each season that the Irish needed Cornett in a jersey.

"The Rick Cornett red-shirt discussion took place many times in the fall, and not necessarily his freshman year," Brey said. "Do you hold him out maybe in one of the other years? But given where our numbers were — 10, 11 [scholarship players] — I was a little nervous, [especially with] Francis with back surgery coming back."

Brey also knows Cornett has been frustrated with his playing time, but the coach said it took Cornett a while to fully realize what he had to do to earn minutes.

"The one thing he and I have always talked about is, in the off-season, being really committed," Brey said. "And each summer he's learned the commitment level to play at this level really is intense. He's done more each summer. This summer was the most productive for him. He invested in the big man camp."

"He does have other interests, [and] that's healthy. That's well-rounded, but also then too you want kind of a maniacal focus."

Cornett calls listening to music a serious interest but says basketball is his primary passion and is not sure he has lacked the necessary focus during his career. But, as Brey documents, the senior has handled his situation admirably — enough for

Brey to call for a re-vote of team captains in January, leading to Cornett's joining Francis and Quinn as tri-captains thereafter.

"The one thing about this young man is [that] his attitude has always been excellent," Brey said. "He comes in and accepts his responsibility ... He may go back and say, 'Gosh, I think I should be doing more, but if that's the way they're setting it up, I'll do it.' He's had a great frame of mind, and I respect him for that."

## Through success and failure

Francis entered his senior season with his own issues and goals — some of which, as in Cornett's case, remain unfulfilled.

Francis has started in the middle for Notre Dame for four years, with the exception of being sidelined by a herniated disk in his back late during the 2003-04 season. He began a promising career averaging 11.1 points and 9.5 rebounds his freshman season playing alongside Matt Carroll, Dan Miller, Torrian Jones and Chris Thomas into the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16.

Then, the team lost valuable players, and injury crept into the picture.

Notre Dame settled for the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) the following season, though Francis had been averaging career bests of 14.2 points and 12.8 rebounds before injuring himself just over halfway through the schedule.

Francis has regained confidence this season and found his role, but during his junior season he struggled. And overall, even Brey admitted Francis does not "bounce" off the floor like he used to following back surgery on March 8, 2004.

"I think I've definitely progressed as a player," Francis said, acknowledging — as his coach also did — that he's improved in several facets of the game despite lower statistics. "I think I might have had a good year freshman year, but now I'm doing a lot of things better than I was freshman year as far as playing defense, getting more assists and getting more rebounds ... I think it's just that we haven't really gotten to where I've wanted to as a team these past few years like I did my freshman year."

Francis also is realistic, though, about where he stands as an individual talent.

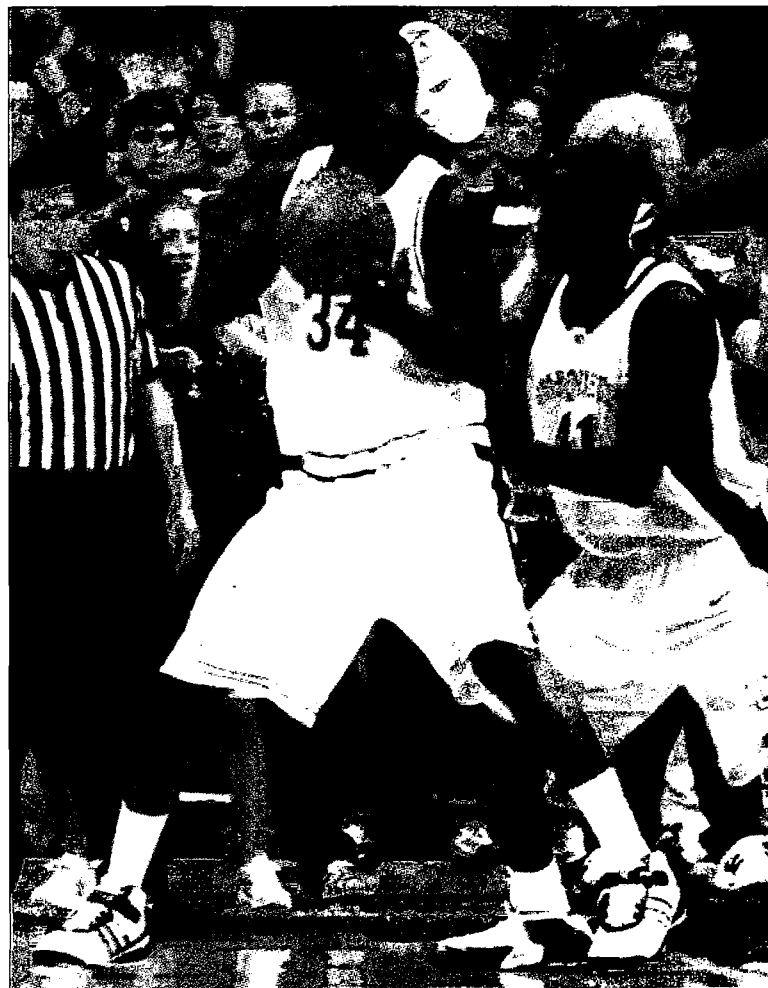
"Kids, over their four-year career, become educated to what reality is," Brey said.

Surprising many after what Francis admits was a sub par junior season, the Boston, Mass. native declared for the NBA Draft to be held in June 2005 and worked out at a pre-draft camp, where he got a T-shirt along with some humbling advice.

"A couple guys just told me I should go back to school and spend this year to develop some more," Francis said. "I played pretty well at times, and other times I just played O.K. So that was the indicator that maybe I should come back ... [and] have a good [senior] year personally and win as a team."

And he claims he entered the draft as much to learn from the best players in the country as he did to qualify for the world's top league, an intention Brey confirmed.

"Putting his name in last year was more of an educational process than [his thinking]. 'I'm



PHIL HUDELSON and GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

**Top, Irish forward Torin Francis posts up in an 80-72 loss to Marquette Feb. 25. Bottom, Irish forward Rick Cornett goes to the basket in an 80-59 win over Niagara Dec. 21, 2005.**

good enough to go," Brey said. "It wasn't an arrogant move on his part ... The crazy thing about the draft [is if] you have a good two days in Chicago, you can be the 25th pick and then work out for some guys."

"... Whenever he was eligible for the NBA Draft, whether it was his freshman year, his junior year or this spring, he was gonna be in a dogfight to scratch his way into the league. He's realistic about that. The one thing he can do is he can make a living playing the game somewhere for a while."

## What the future may hold

Brey said he feels Cornett also has the ability to make money by playing basketball after graduation, and his backup senior forward seems intent on aiming for just such a career.

He's not focused on career aspirations yet, though. Cornett wants to leave a legacy at Notre Dame, and he wants to do it alongside his friend, teammate and fellow captain, Francis — something the starting forward welcomes.

"[Rick's] a scoring threat, he's a threat on defense and he goes

after the boards," Francis said. "I think when coach Brey has played us together this year, it's worked."

Francis scored 18 points and grabbed 12 points as the catalyst to Notre Dame's 82-75 victory over Providence Wednesday. Cornett played sparingly, but even when he doesn't see as many minutes, both seniors remain major reasons why this group has been so resilient through a difficult conference slate.

"That's the type of guys we are," Francis said. "Coach Brey and the coaching staff can only do so much. For us, it's how we go out and practice, how we prepare for the games and whether we're mentally ready for the games."

"We could have thrown in the towel a long time ago, but why would we if we still have the opportunity to do big things?"

They each had the opportunity to throw in the towel, on themselves and on the team. But now all they can think about is that New York City thing.

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